

11



FRONTLINE™

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

JENKINS

LUCAS

BACHS

MOLINAR

CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #011

70 YEARS OF MARVEL COMICS

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70 YEARS
MARVEL
COMICS

TIMES SQUARE,
NEW YORK CITY.

OUTSIDE
OUR WINDOWS,
WORLDS
COLLIDED.

CRASH.
BOOM.
BANG.

THEN SILENCE.

WE WAITED FOR THE
DUST TO SETTLE.

WE VENTURED
OUT OF HIDING.

YOU
STUPID,
SELFISH
IDIOTS.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?

EMBEDDED

PART
ELEVEN

PAUL
JENKINS
WRITER

RAMON
BACHS
PENCILER

JOHN
LUCAS
INKER

LARRY
MOLINAR
COLORIST

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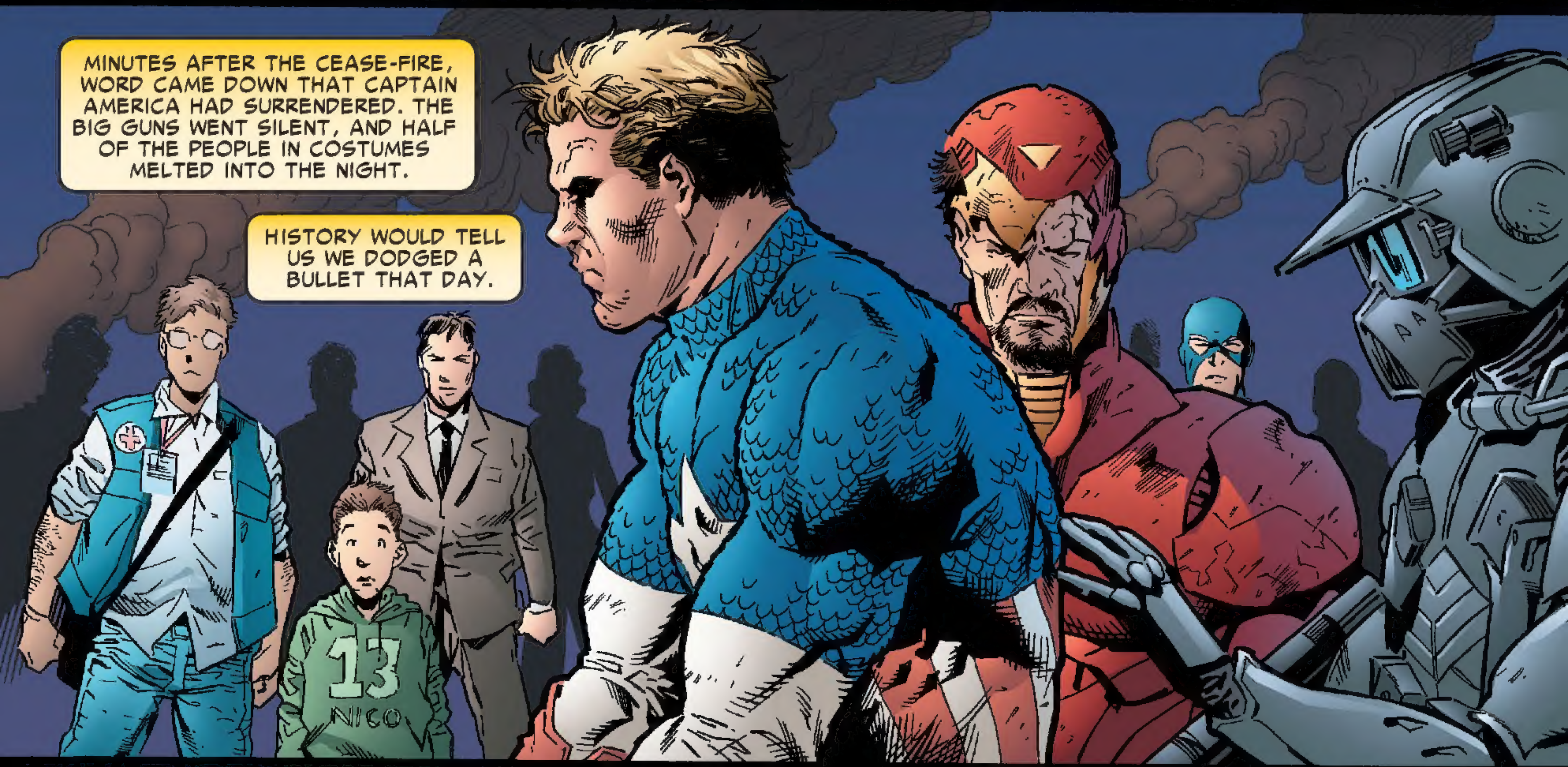
AND ONLY THEN
DID THE FALLOUT
REALLY BEGIN.





THIS WAS THE DAY
AMERICA--THE REST
OF THE WORLD, EVEN--
AWOKE TO A NEW
REALITY: THINGS WERE
GOING TO BE DIFFERENT--
THEY HAD TO BE.

BECAUSE IF WE
CONTINUED THIS WAY,
THERE WAS GOING
TO BE NOTHING LEFT
FOR THE HEROES
TO PROTECT.



MINUTES AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE,
WORD CAME DOWN THAT CAPTAIN
AMERICA HAD SURRENDERED. THE
BIG GUNS WENT SILENT, AND HALF
OF THE PEOPLE IN COSTUMES
MELTED INTO THE NIGHT.

HISTORY WOULD TELL
US WE DODGED A
BULLET THAT DAY.



WE WERE TOO BUSY
PUTTING OUT
FIRES TO NOTICE.



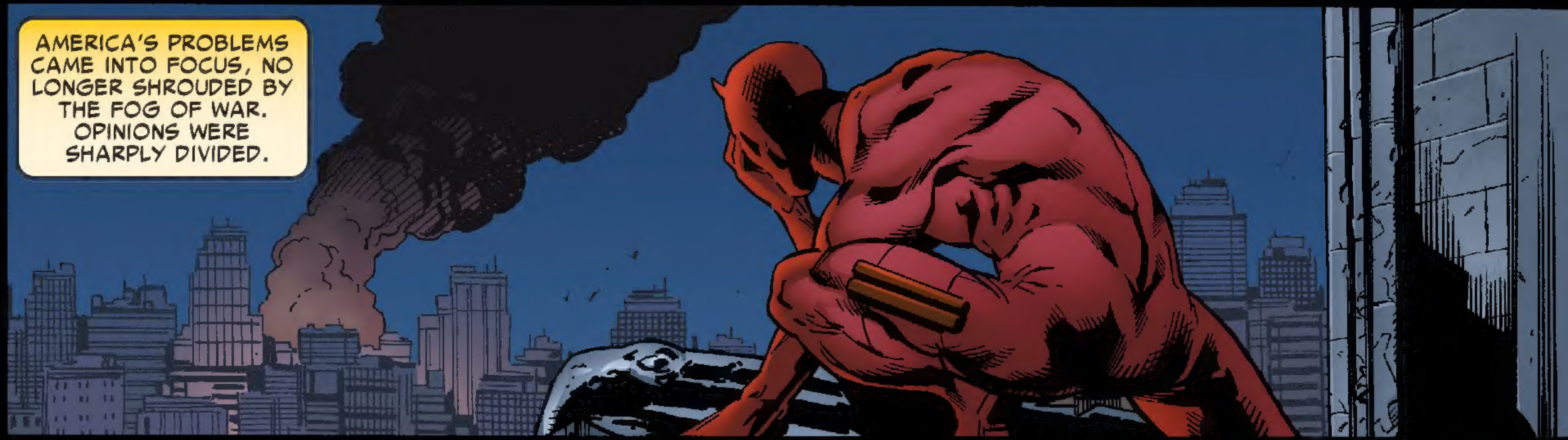
WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THE FINAL TOLL WAS AS LUDICROUS AS IT WAS DEVASTATING: FIFTY-THREE KILLED... ONLY SIX OF THEM SUPER-POWERED.

IT WAS THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE. ONLY TIME WOULD TELL IF IT WAS GOING TO BE WORTH GETTING OUT OF BED FOR.



WITHIN HOURS, THE DAMAGE CONTROL BEGAN. AND IT WASN'T NEARLY ENOUGH, QUICKLY ENOUGH.

IF THE HEROES HAD WORKED THIS HARD TO REPAIR THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE WORLD WOULD ALREADY HAVE BEEN A BETTER PLACE.

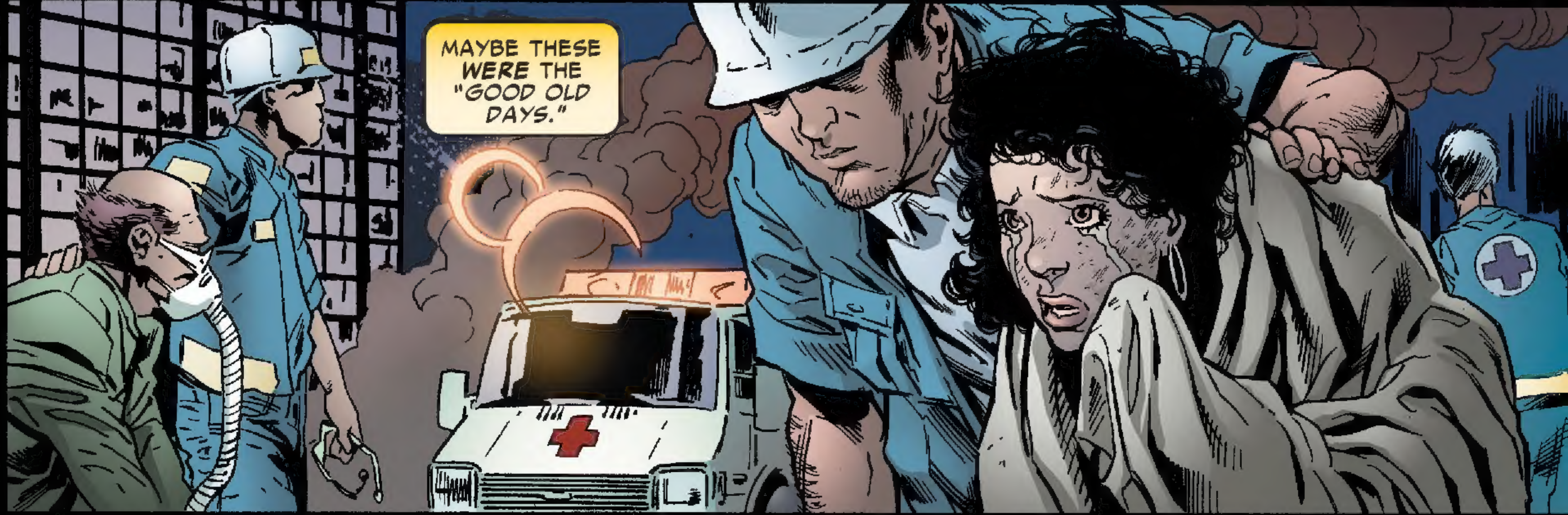


AMERICA'S PROBLEMS CAME INTO FOCUS, NO LONGER SHROUDED BY THE FOG OF WAR. OPINIONS WERE SHARPLY DIVIDED.



WE CLEARED THE DEBRIS, LONGING FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

AND NATURALLY, WE BEGAN TO ASK, "WHEN WERE THOSE, EXACTLY?"



MAYBE THESE WERE THE "GOOD OLD DAYS."

THE RAFT, RYKER'S
ISLAND MAXIMUM
SECURITY INSTALLATION.



YOU'RE
LEAVING THE
ALTERNATIVE?

HEY, YOU
LEFT THE BUGLE!
WHY SHOULD YOU
HAVE ALL THE
FUN?

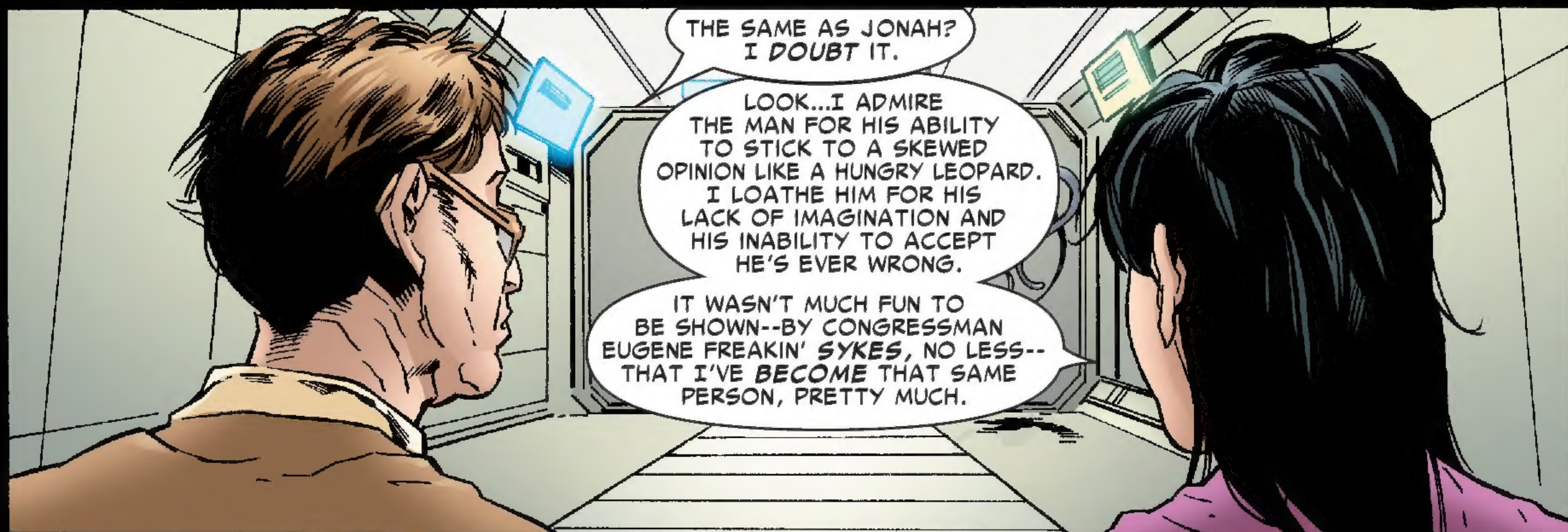
BUT WHY,
SALLY?

SAME
REASON AS
YOU, PRETTY
MUCH.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE HAPPY
THERE.

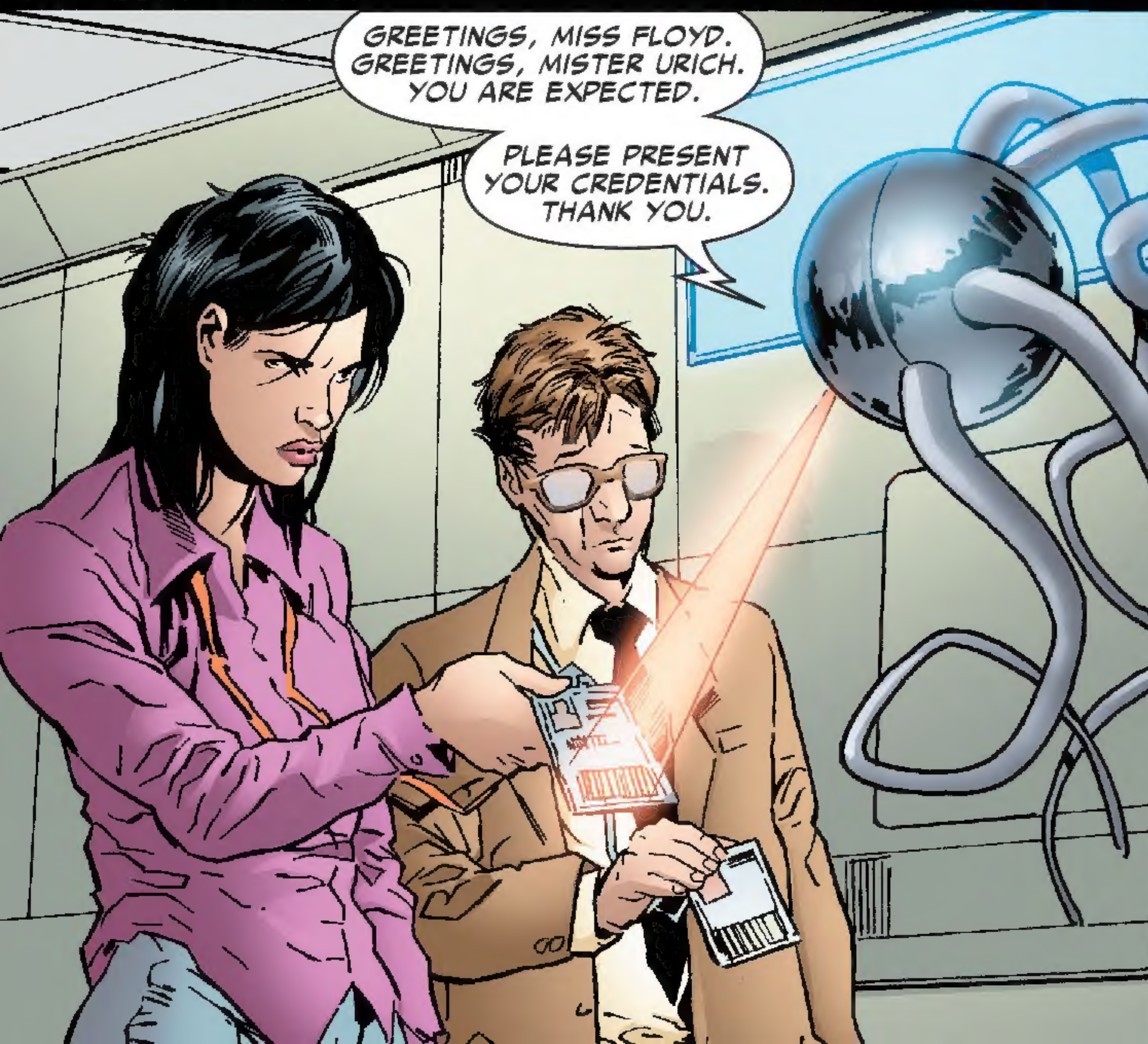
YEAH, WELL...
IGNORANCE IS BLISS.
AS MUCH AS THE
ALTERNATIVE PURPORTS
TO BE A BASTION OF
FREE SPEECH, I'VE COME
TO REALIZE IT'S THE SAME
ANIMAL AS JAMESON IN
A DIFFERENT SKIN.



THE SAME AS JONAH?
I DOUBT IT.

LOOK...I ADMIRE
THE MAN FOR HIS ABILITY
TO STICK TO A SKEWED
OPINION LIKE A HUNGRY LEOPARD.
I LOATHE HIM FOR HIS
LACK OF IMAGINATION AND
HIS INABILITY TO ACCEPT
HE'S EVER WRONG.

IT WASN'T MUCH FUN TO
BE SHOWN--BY CONGRESSMAN
EUGENE FREAKIN' SYKES, NO LESS--
THAT I'VE *BECOME* THAT SAME
PERSON, PRETTY MUCH.

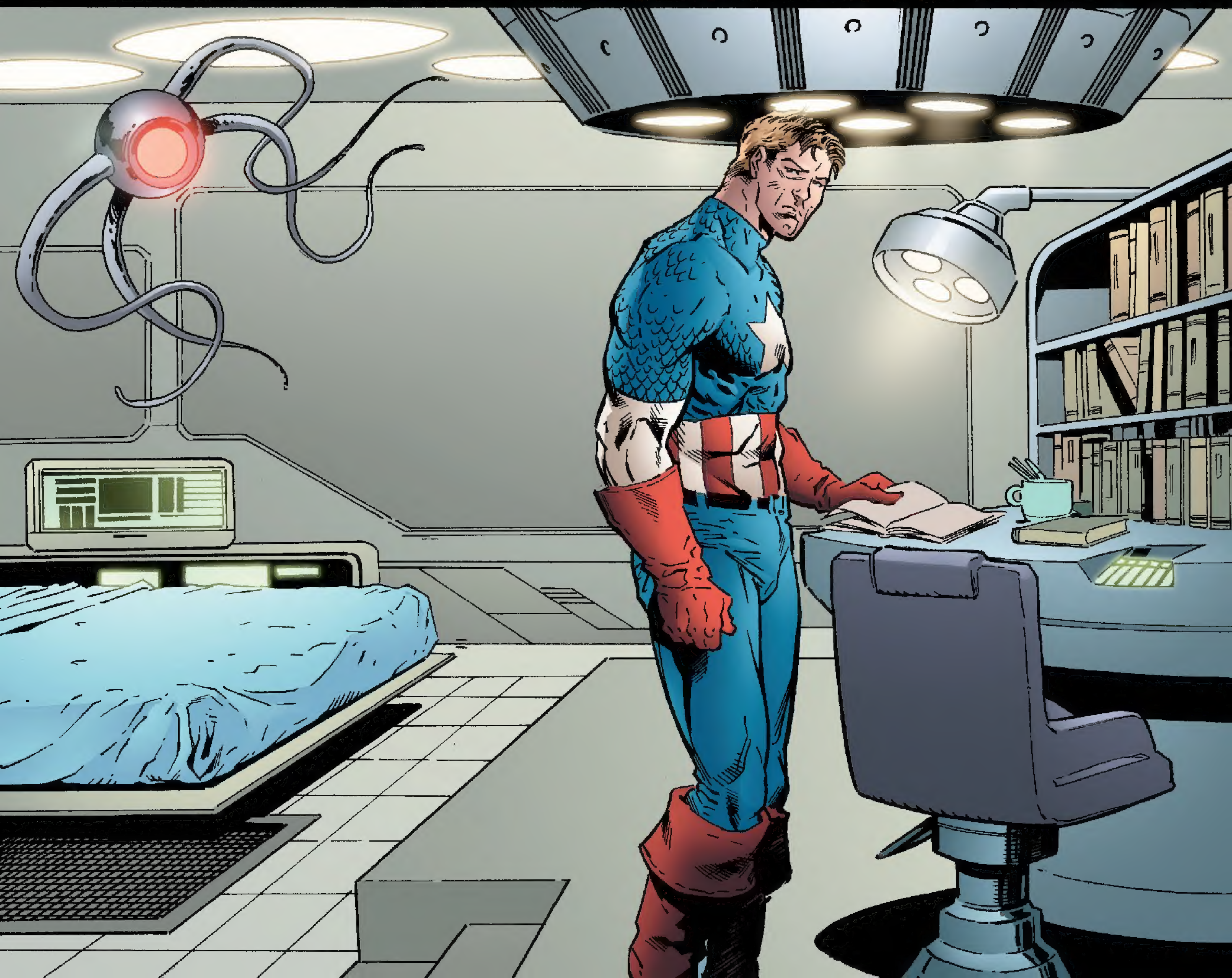
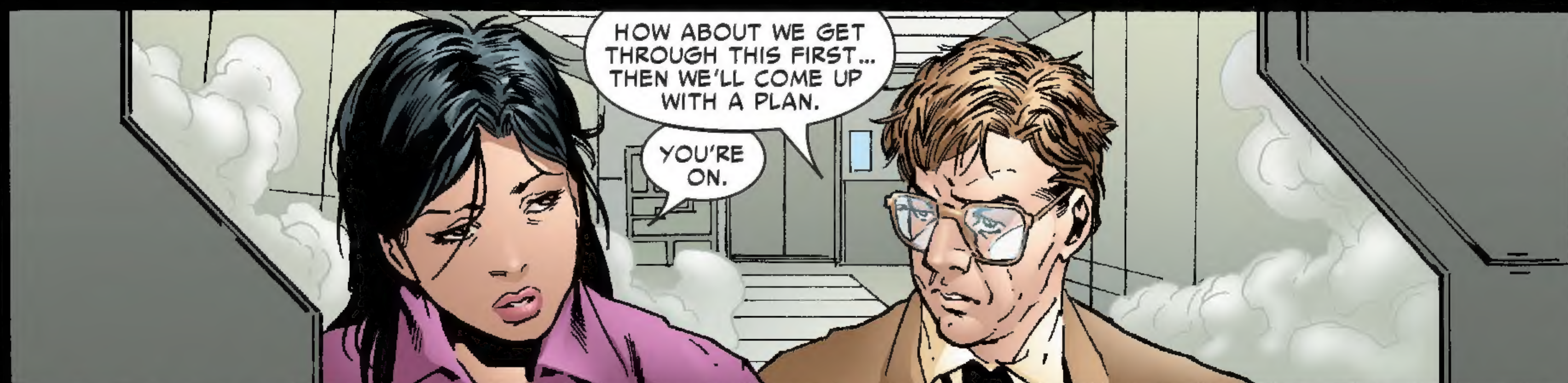


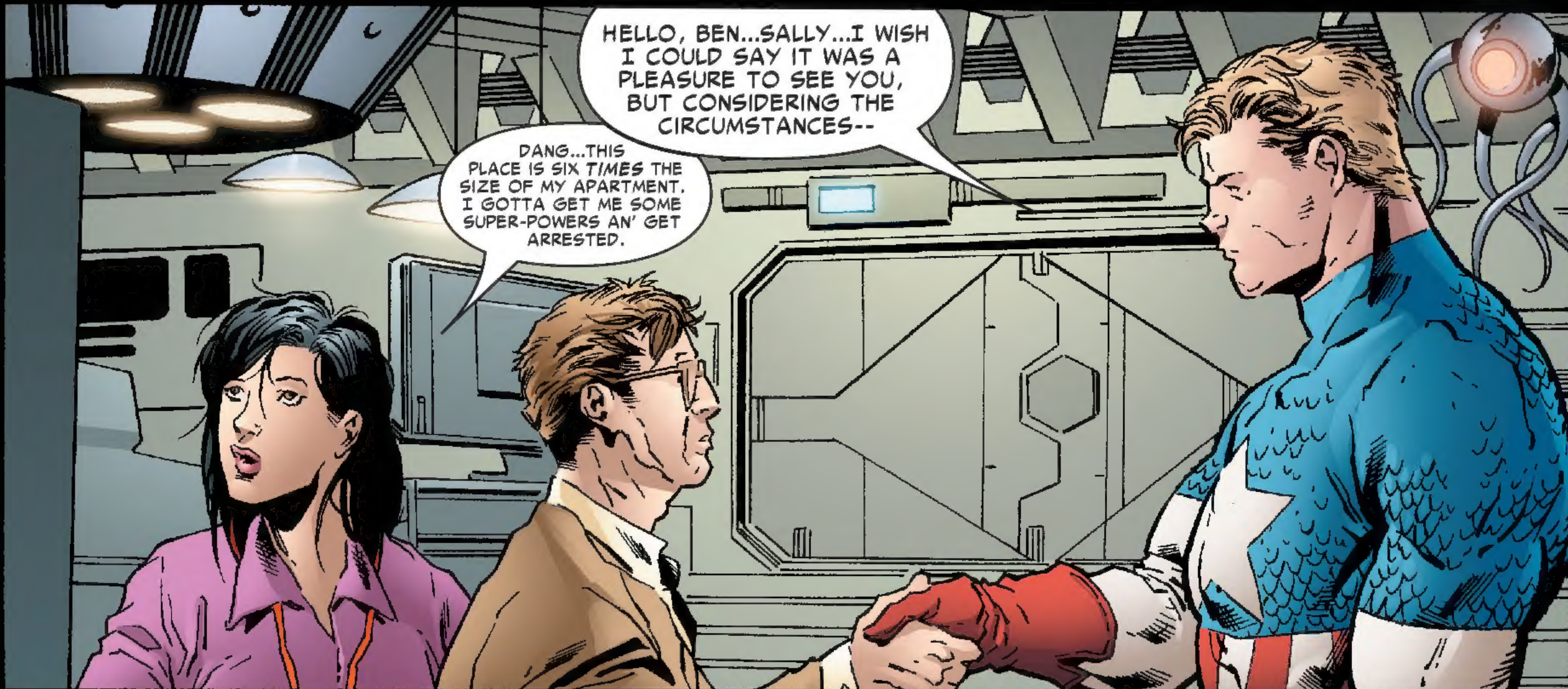
GREETINGS, MISS FLOYD.
GREETINGS, MISTER URICH.
YOU ARE EXPECTED.

PLEASE PRESENT
YOUR CREDENTIALS.
THANK YOU.



I NEED A *CHANGE*,
BEN. I DON'T WANT
TO BE A ONE-TRICK
PONY WITH A ONE-
TRACK MIND.



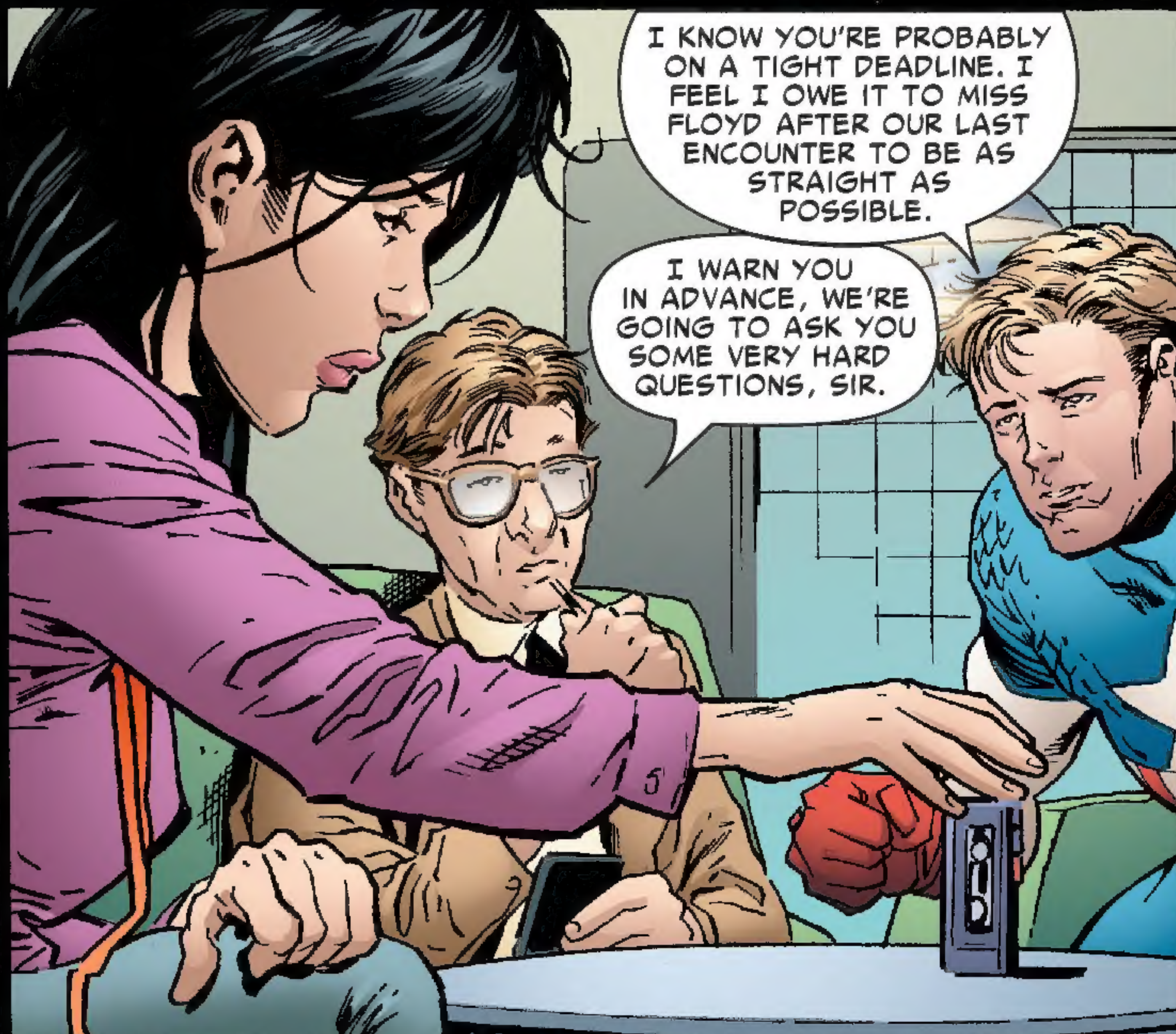


HELLO, BEN...SALLY...I WISH I COULD SAY IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU, BUT CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES--

DANG...THIS PLACE IS SIX TIMES THE SIZE OF MY APARTMENT. I GOTTA GET ME SOME SUPER-POWERS AN' GET ARRESTED.

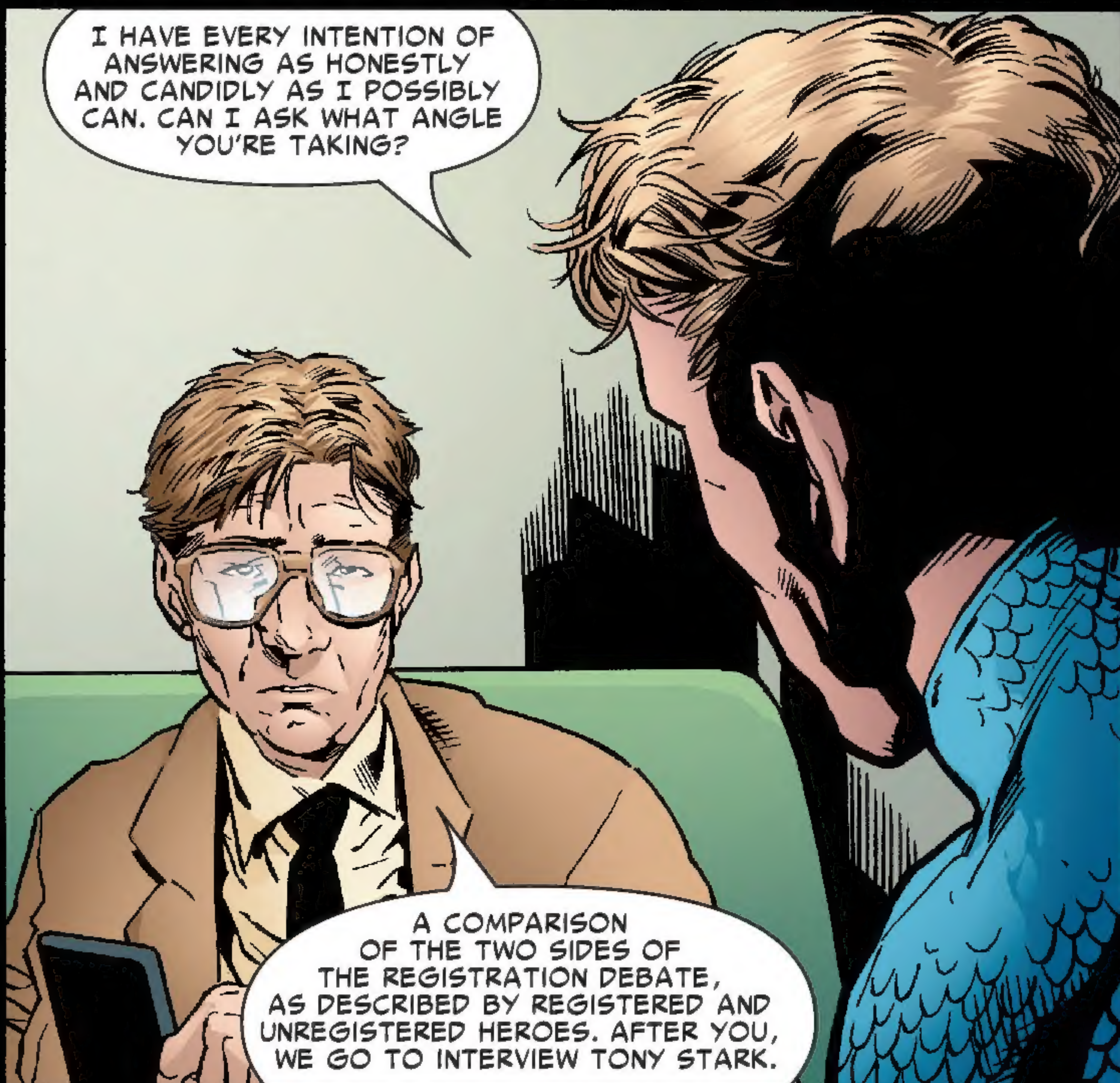


PLEASE...COME IN AND SIT DOWN. I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE AUTHORITIES TO LET ME EXPRESS MY SIDE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED.



I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY ON A TIGHT DEADLINE. I FEEL I OWE IT TO MISS FLOYD AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER TO BE AS STRAIGHT AS POSSIBLE.

I WARN YOU IN ADVANCE, WE'RE GOING TO ASK YOU SOME VERY HARD QUESTIONS, SIR.



I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF ANSWERING AS HONESTLY AND CANDIDLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN. CAN I ASK WHAT ANGLE YOU'RE TAKING?

A COMPARISON OF THE TWO SIDES OF THE REGISTRATION DEBATE, AS DESCRIBED BY REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED HEROES. AFTER YOU, WE GO TO INTERVIEW TONY STARK.



I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH OF A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO TONY.

WHEN YOU SEE HIM, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL HIM HOW *SORRY* I AM FOR ALL THIS.



WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM *YOURSELF*, SIR? THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN YOUR ACTIONS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

HOPEFULLY, YOU'LL ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS OF THE REGISTRATION ACT SUPPORTERS. I ASKED THEM TO COME TO THE TABLE EARLIER. THEY DREW A LINE IN THE SAND.



DID YOU AND YOUR SUPPORTERS STEP OVER THAT LINE, SIR? HOW MUCH OF YOUR DECISION TO GO TO WAR WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, AND HOW MUCH BECAUSE OF *PRIDE*?

PRIDE WAS NEVER INVOLVED. I BELIEVE WHAT I DID WAS RIGHT. IF YOU KNOW ME AT ALL, YOU'LL KNOW I'M A SIMPLE MAN AT HEART.



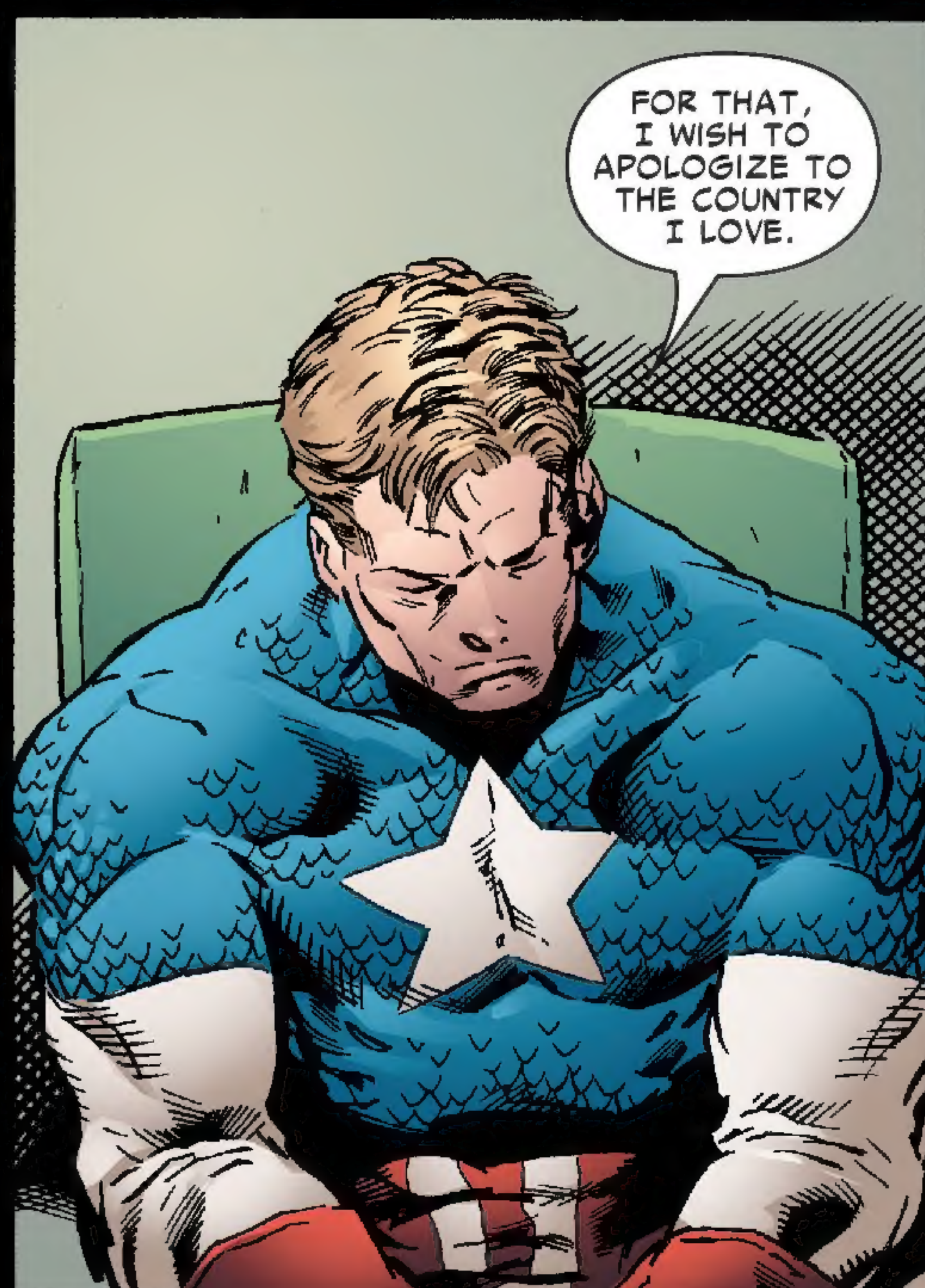
I BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ACCORDED US BY OUR CONSTITUTION, BEN. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS, A RIGHT TO DEFEND AND A RIGHT TO *CHOOSE*.

I HAVE SWORN AN OATH TO DEFEND AMERICA FROM EXTERNAL FORCES, AND FROM *WITHIN*. IF THAT MEANS STANDING AGAINST MY OWN GOVERNMENT, REJECTING A BOGUS LAW PASSED BY MY OWN SUPERIORS, THEN I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT IT *MEANS*.

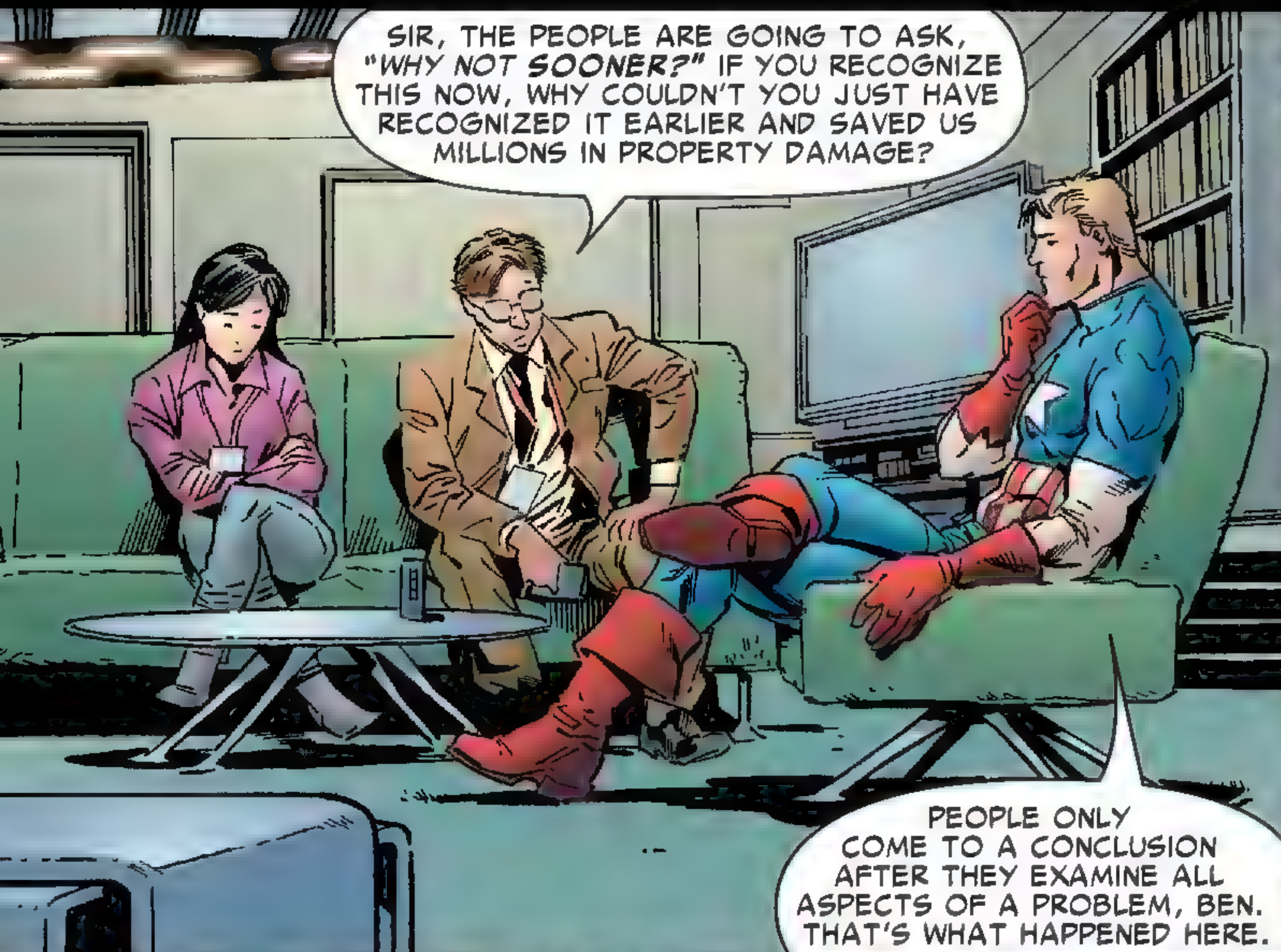


I NOW REALIZE THAT WHILE MY INTENTIONS WERE CORRECT AND HONORABLE, I COULD AS EASILY HAVE COME TO THE TABLE AS TONY STARK OR REED RICHARDS.

I SAW THE POSSIBILITY OF A REGISTRATION ACT AS A BASIC VIOLATION OF OUR RIGHTS AS AMERICANS.



FOR THAT, I WISH TO APOLOGIZE TO THE COUNTRY I LOVE.





MISS FLOYD,
YOU'RE BEING
SIMPLISTIC--

YEAH, BUT WHEN
DANGER REARS ITS UGLY
HEAD YOU DON'T HAVE TO
HIDE IN A SUBWAY LIKE THE
REST OF US, DO YOU? WE
DON'T HAVE THE **POWER** TO
BE AS **COMPLICATED**
AS YOU.



SEE, I RESENT THE FACT THAT I EVER
HAD TO HIDE IN A SUBWAY STATION IN
THE FIRST PLACE. YOU PEOPLE SET
YOURSELF UP AS SOME KIND OF ARMY,
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER VOTING
FOR YOU.

IF I'M GONNA
PAY FOR AN ARMY
THEY'D BETTER
BE ANSWERABLE
TO ME!



SO WAS IT ALL WORTH IT, SIR? ALL THOSE DEAD
AND BURIED...AND WHAT DID YOU **ACCOMPLISH**,
EXACTLY? DID YOU GET TO WORK THE
PROBLEM OUT TO YOUR
SATISFACTION?

I UNDERSTAND
YOU'RE JUST VOICING
THE FRUSTRATION OF
OTHERS, SALLY. BUT I
DID WHAT I THOUGHT
WAS **RIGHT**.

WELL, BULLY FOR
YOU. YOU'VE FINALLY
REALIZED AMERICA WANTS
A REGISTRATION ACT. BUT THE
BIG QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S
LIPS IS, WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE
REALIZED THAT A FEW **WEEKS** AGO?



YOUR PROBLEM IS THAT YOU'RE FIGHTING
FOR AN **IDEAL**--IT'S ALL YOU KNOW HOW
TO DO. AMERICA IS NO LONGER ABOUT
MOM AND APPLE PIE...IT'S ABOUT HIGH
CHOLESTEROL AND PARIS HILTON AND
SCHEMING YOUR WAY TO
THE TOP.

THE COUNTRY
I LOVE TREATS ITS
CELEBRITIES LIKE ROYALTY
AND ITS TEACHERS LIKE DIRT.
BUT AT LEAST I WALK ITS
STREETS EVERY DAY. AT
LEAST I KNOW WHAT
IT IS.



YOU'VE
BROKEN THAT
COUNTRY, CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

WHAT ARE
YOU GONNA DO
TO FIX IT?



WELL, THAT WAS INTERESTING. I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INTERVIEWING CAPTAIN AMERICA, NOT YELLING AT HIM.

I CHANGED MY MIND. NOW IT'S AN OPINION PIECE.



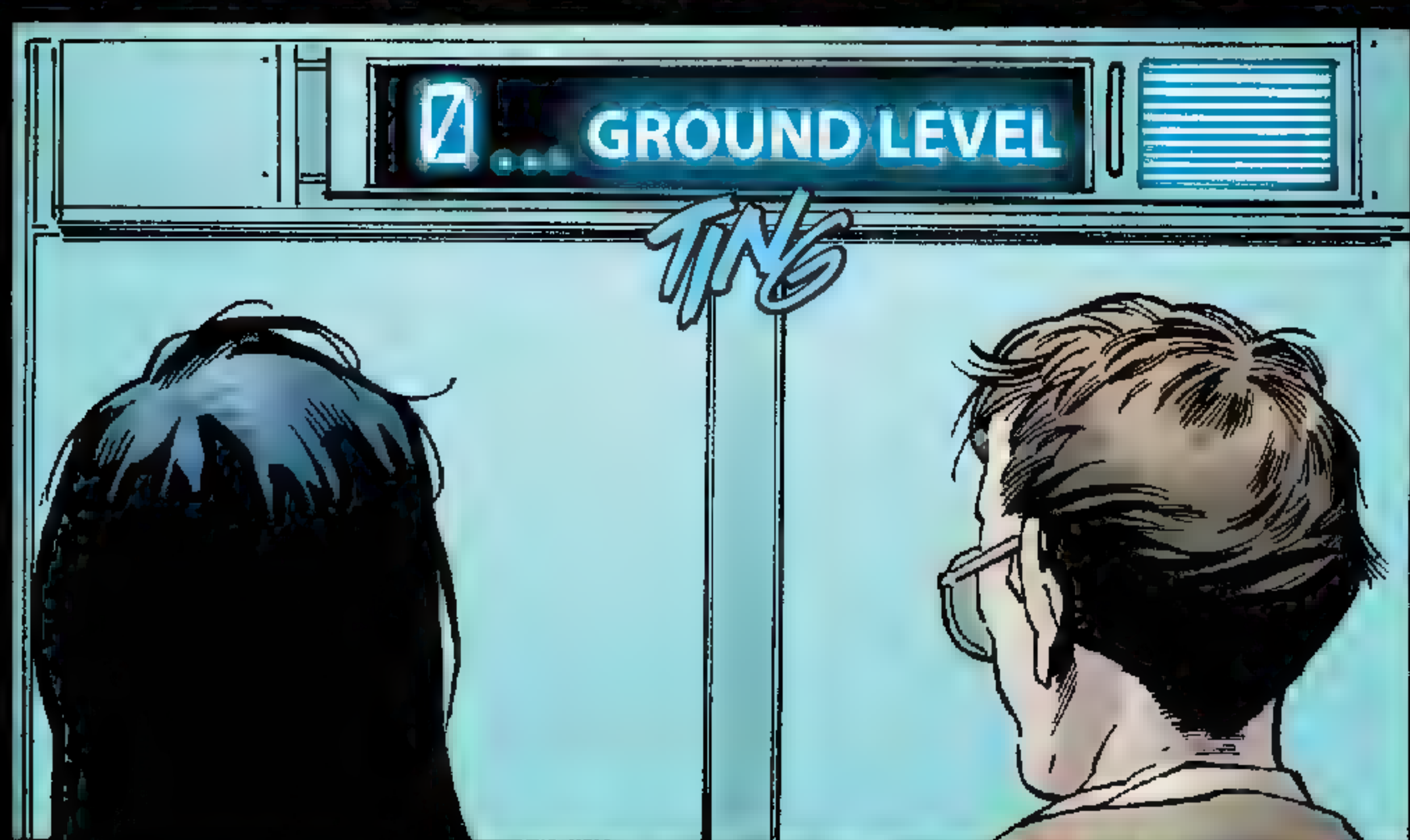
SO MUCH FOR THE "OBJECTIVE REPORTER" SECTION OF OUR PROGRAM--

IT JUST DRIVES ME BONKERS, IS ALL: THE MONEY TO PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGE COMES OUT OF MY PAYCHECK, SAME AS YOU. I'D LIKE A REFUND.



LOOK...I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN ROUGH. FOR BOTH OF US...YOU ESPECIALLY. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FORCED TO EXAMINE A LOT OF THINGS DIFFERENTLY LATELY, AND YOU'RE REACTING TO THAT.

BUT IN TEN DAYS' TIME WE FACE TONY STARK WITH THIS STORY OF OURS, AND IT'S GOING TO TEAR EVERYTHING IN HALF.



GROUND LEVEL

TING



JUST PROMISE ME YOU'LL LET ME DO THE TALKING, OKAY?

She agreed, and over the next couple of days we put the finishing touches on the big, secret story we were never going to tell.

Two out-of-work reporters, sitting on a mountain of dynamite, wrapped around an atomic bomb.

I thanked God a hundred times for my patient, understanding and caffeine-wielding wife.

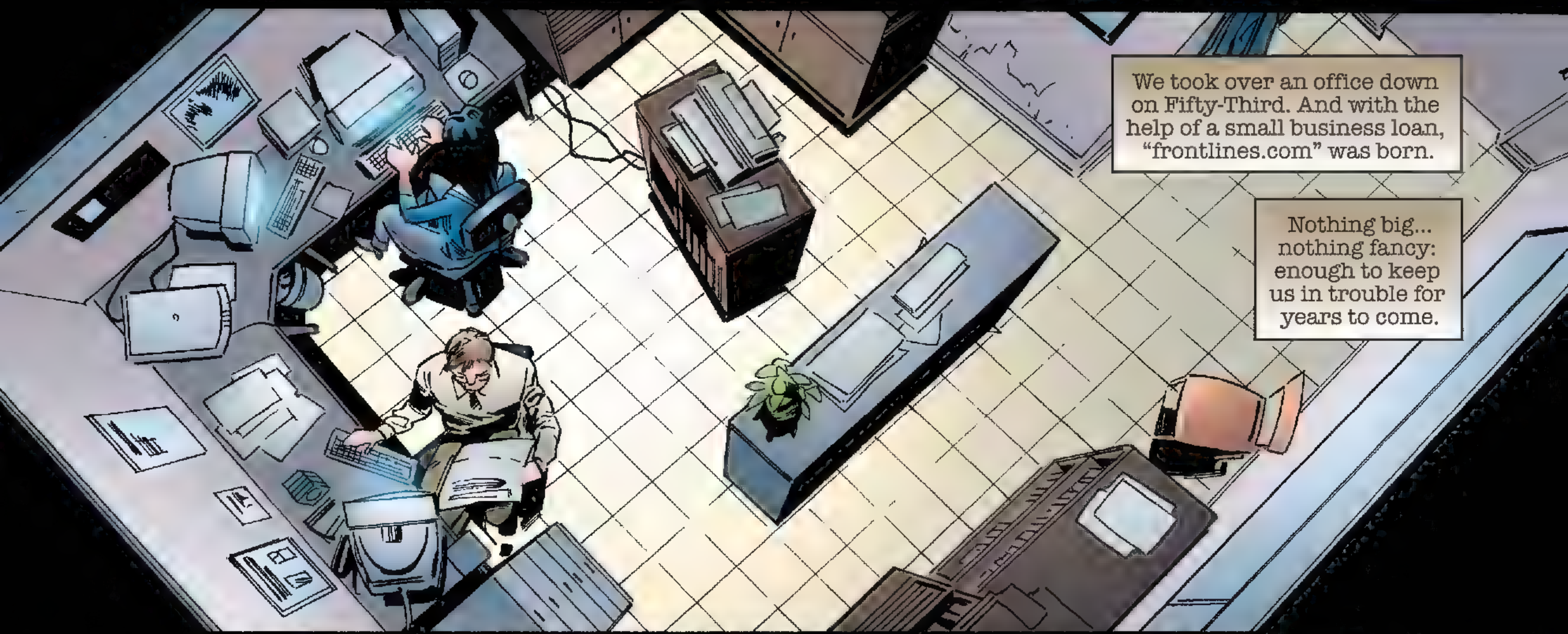
Sally told me she went out on a second date with Danny Granville from Costume Division, which was nice.

She didn't say whether or not they had a good time.

Three days after the end of the war, the Sentry publically announced his support of the Registration Act, much to everyone's surprise.

This and other factors led to a thirty-eight percent upswing in recruitment to the Pro-Registration cause.

In the interests of objectivity, Sally and I made sure to stay in touch with those of a dissenting opinion.



We took over an office down on Fifty-Third. And with the help of a small business loan, "frontlines.com" was born.

Nothing big... nothing fancy: enough to keep us in trouble for years to come.



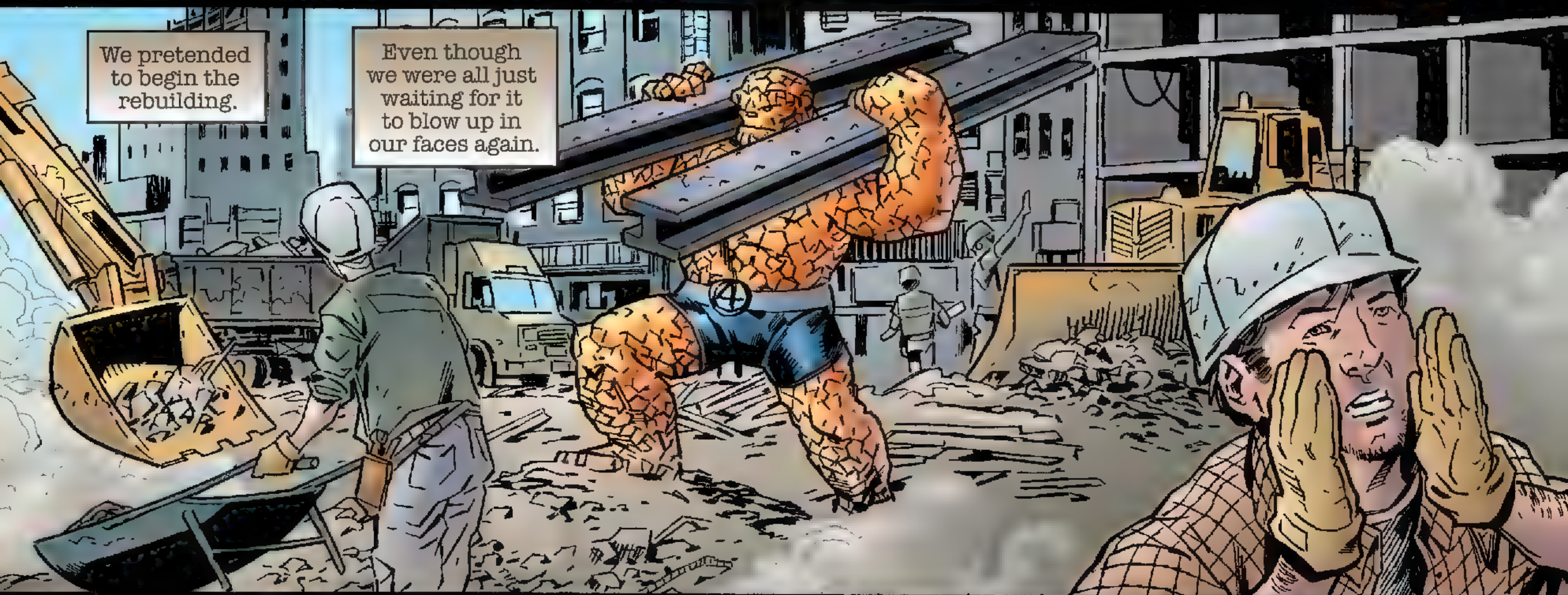
I watched with pride as Sally put her newfound objectivity to the test. Her piece on the Atlantean threat garnered a lot of attention.

I thought to myself, what's the point of a good civil war if not to bring about **change**?



The war, of course, threatened to spill across America's borders.

We steeled ourselves for what many assumed would inevitably come from below the surface of the ocean.



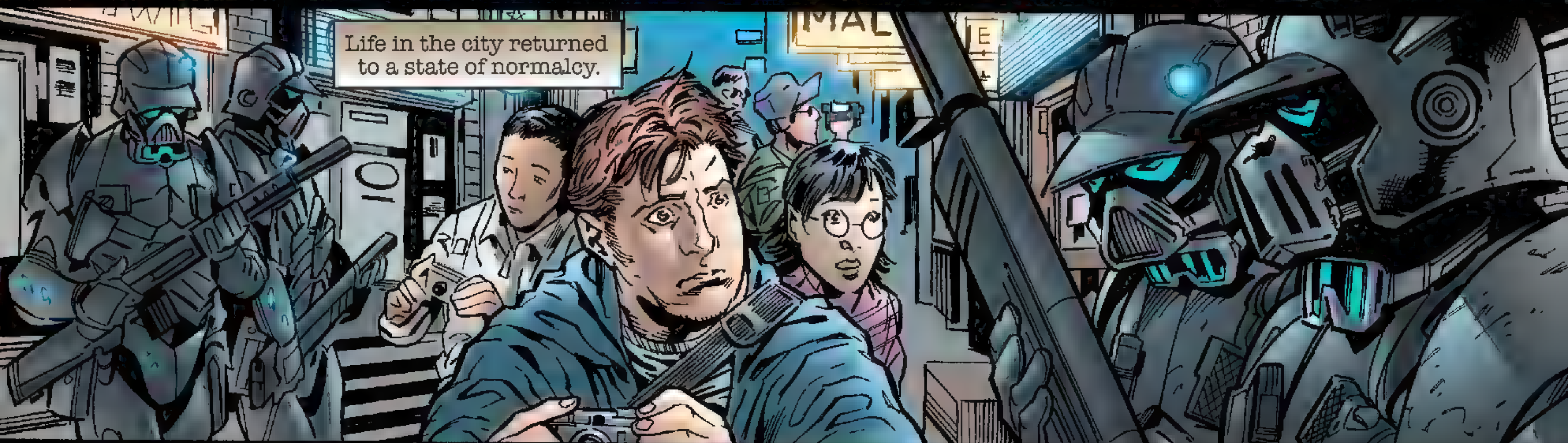
We pretended to begin the rebuilding.

Even though we were all just waiting for it to blow up in our faces again.



The Fifty-State Initiative went into full effect within four days of the end of the war.

The prevailing joke was that there was going to be another civil war because nobody could persuade anyone to be in charge of Rhode Island.



Life in the city returned to a state of normalcy.



We said goodbye to old friends.



And on Day Ten, Sally and I went forth to blow the whole thing wide open...

YOU NERVOUS?

YEAH. YOU?

TERRIFIED.





HELLO, MISS FLOYD. IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

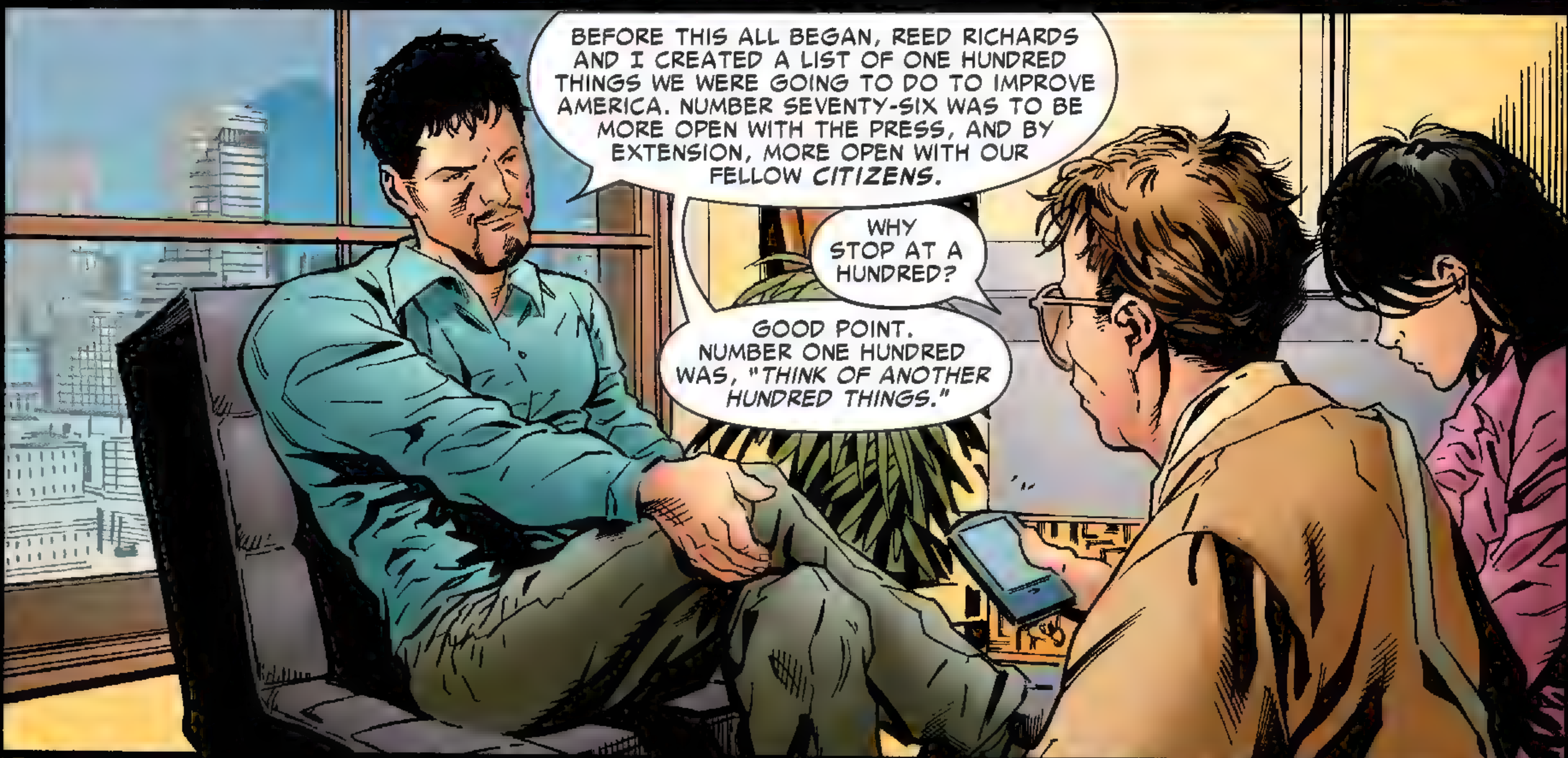
BEN.



PLEASE...HAVE A SEAT AND WE'LL GET STARTED.

MIND IF I RECORD THIS?

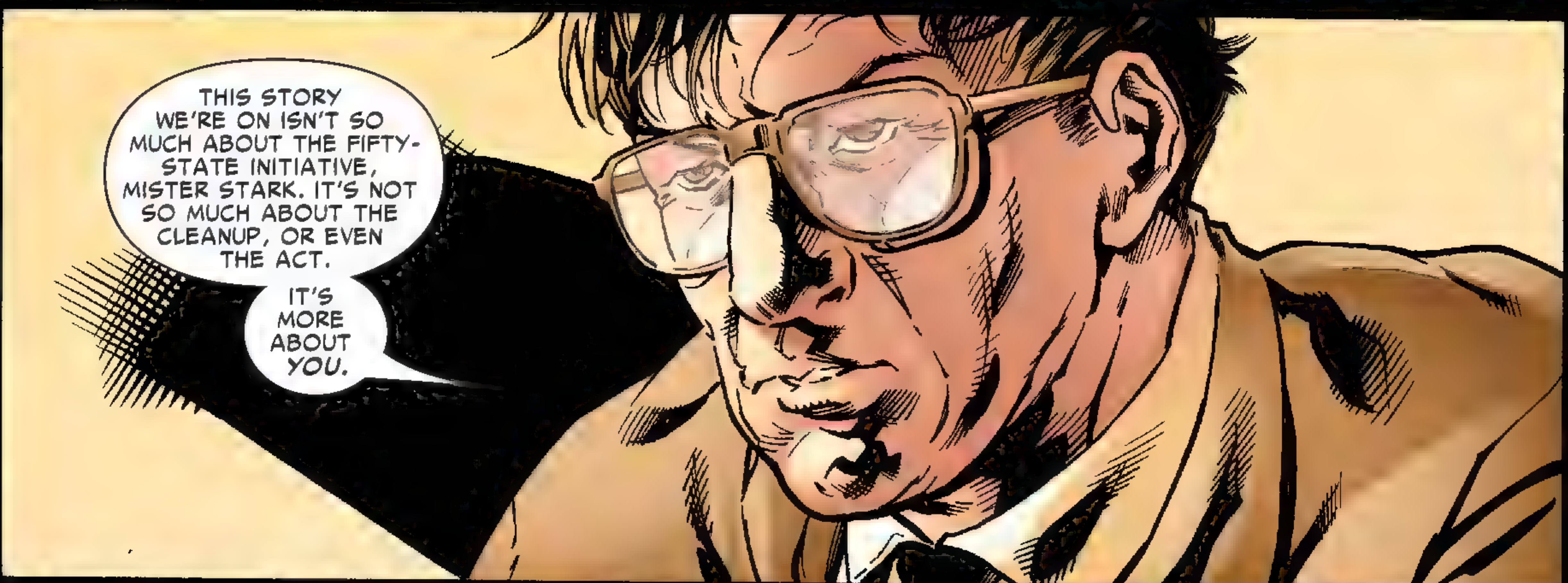
YOUR RECORDER WON'T WORK IN HERE BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO TAKE NOTES.



BEFORE THIS ALL BEGAN, REED RICHARDS AND I CREATED A LIST OF ONE HUNDRED THINGS WE WERE GOING TO DO TO IMPROVE AMERICA. NUMBER SEVENTY-SIX WAS TO BE MORE OPEN WITH THE PRESS, AND BY EXTENSION, MORE OPEN WITH OUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

WHY STOP AT A HUNDRED?

GOOD POINT. NUMBER ONE HUNDRED WAS, "THINK OF ANOTHER HUNDRED THINGS."



THIS STORY WE'RE ON ISN'T SO MUCH ABOUT THE FIFTY-STATE INITIATIVE, MISTER STARK. IT'S NOT SO MUCH ABOUT THE CLEANUP, OR EVEN THE ACT.

IT'S MORE ABOUT YOU.



I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE, BEN. YOU'RE WELCOME TO ASK ME ANYTHING.

WELL, JUST REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT, SIR.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, MISTER STARK, I'M GOING TO BEGIN WITH A RECAP.

"SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN A TRAGEDY AT STAMFORD.

"AS A RESULT, A DUBIOUS PROPOSAL FOR A DUBIOUS LAW RUSHES THROUGH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE LIKE IT WAS SHOT OUT OF A CANNON. IT PASSES BEFORE ANYONE CAN BLINK.

"THOSE IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT-- AND THERE ARE MANY WHO DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DECIDE HOW TO REACT--ARE SHOVED INTO A SECRET PRISON AT AN UNDETERMINED LOCATION.

"REPORTS SUGGEST CONDITIONS IN THIS GULAG ARE FAR HARSHER THAN CAN POSSIBLY BE JUSTIFIED, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING ITS INHABITANTS ARE ALL FORMER HEROES, MANY OF WHOSE SERVICES TO THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE BEYOND QUESTION.



"THE PRO-REGISTRATION LEADERS DECIDE, IN THEIR INFINITE WISDOM, TO ENLIST THE SERVICES OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS TO HELP TRACK DOWN THEIR FORMER COMRADES AND SEND THEM TO THEIR FATE.

"AS IF THESE LOGIC-DEFYING EVENTS WEREN'T ENOUGH, EVERYONE ACTS SURPRISED WHEN ONE OF THESE LUNATICS GOES ROGUE AND ACCIDENTALLY SPARKS A WAR WITH A FOREIGN NATION."



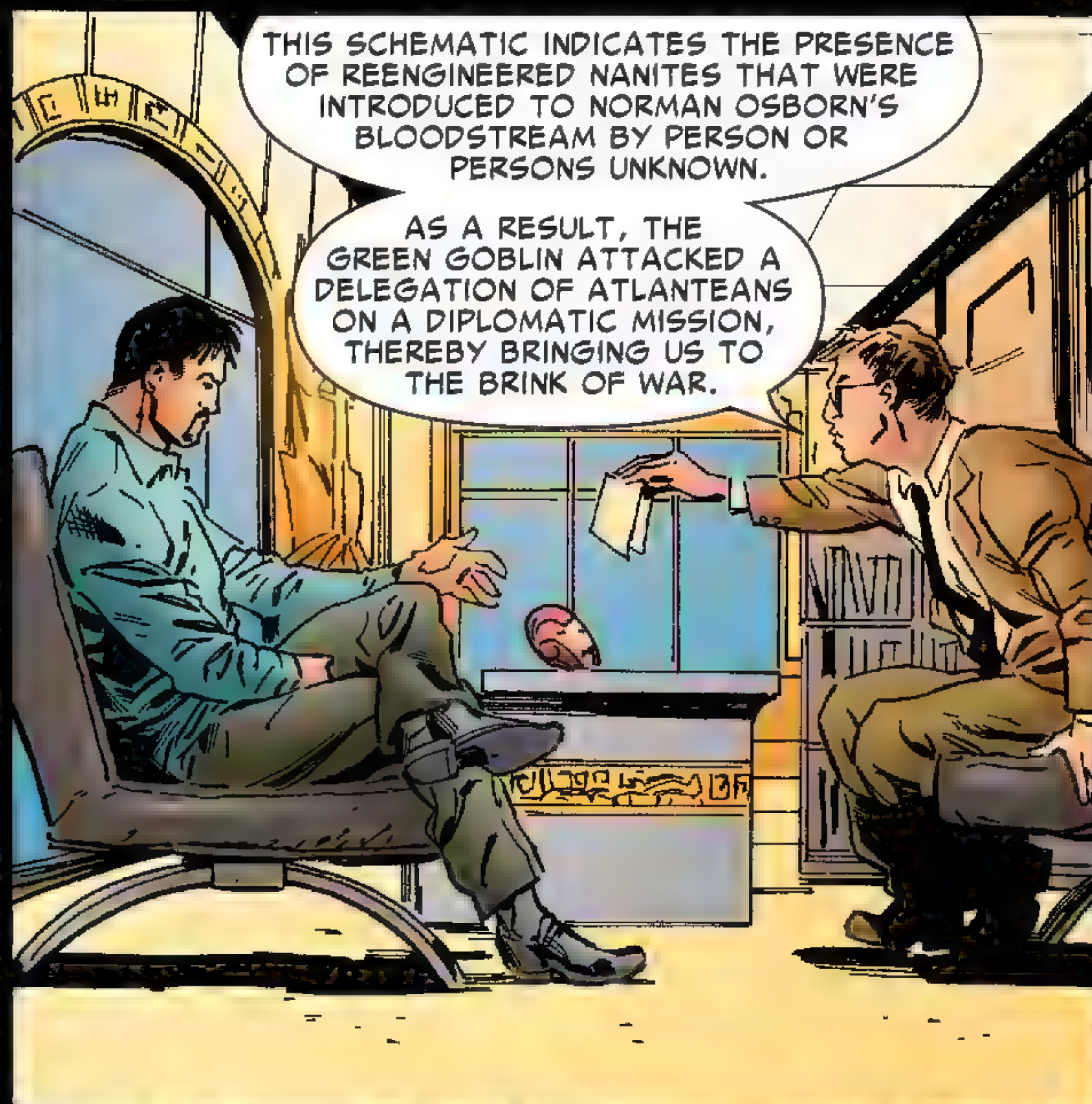
YOU'D THINK IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.

BUT THEN AGAIN, WE KNOW ABOUT THE TRAITOR IN YOUR ORGANIZATION.



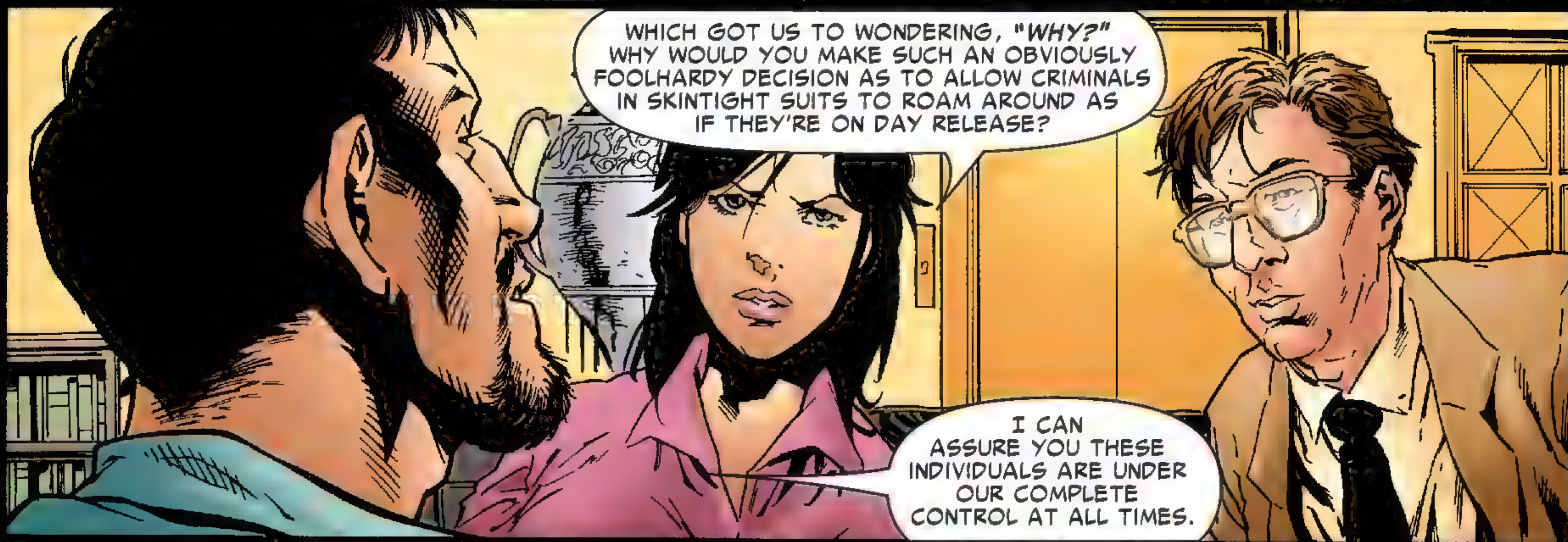
THERE ARE ALWAYS BOUND TO BE RUMORS AND WILD EXAGGERATIONS--

NOT WORTH DENYING, SIR. WE HAVE DOCUMENTED PROOF.



THIS SCHEMATIC INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF REENGINEERED NANITES THAT WERE INTRODUCED TO NORMAN OSBORN'S BLOODSTREAM BY PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN.

AS A RESULT, THE GREEN GOBLIN ATTACKED A DELEGATION OF ATLANTEANS ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION, THEREBY BRINGING US TO THE BRINK OF WAR.



WHICH GOT US TO WONDERING, "WHY?" WHY WOULD YOU MAKE SUCH AN OBVIOUSLY FOOLHARDY DECISION AS TO ALLOW CRIMINALS IN SKINTIGHT SUITS TO ROAM AROUND AS IF THEY'RE ON DAY RELEASE?

I CAN ASSURE YOU THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE UNDER OUR COMPLETE CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.



WE BELIEVE YOU, SIR. IN FACT, WE BELIEVE YOU MORE THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE.

BECAUSE THE BEST MISDIRECTION IS THE ONE THAT HIDES IN PLAIN SIGHT. THE GOBLIN NEVER LEFT YOUR CONTROL, DID HE?

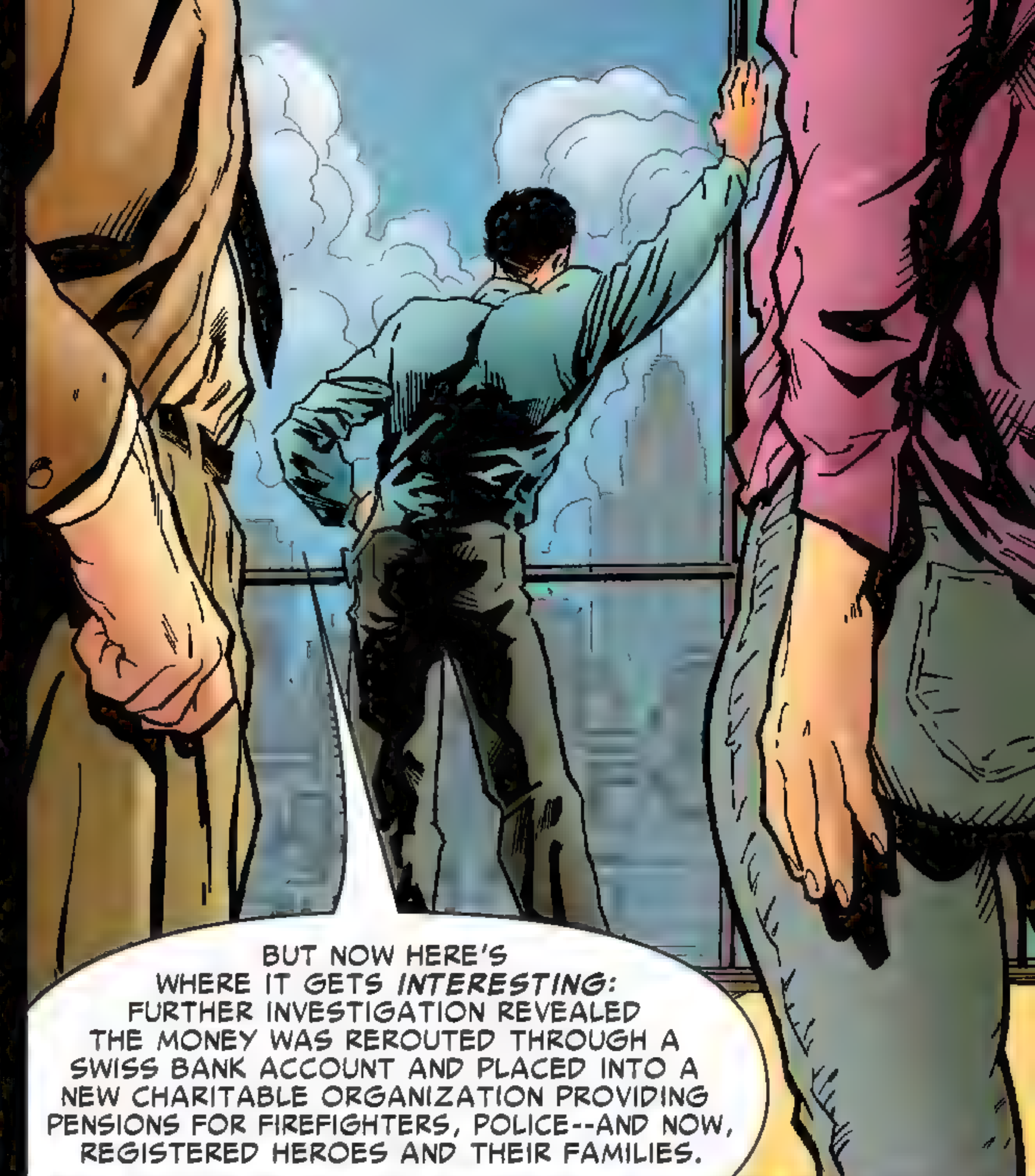


THE TRAITOR IS YOU.

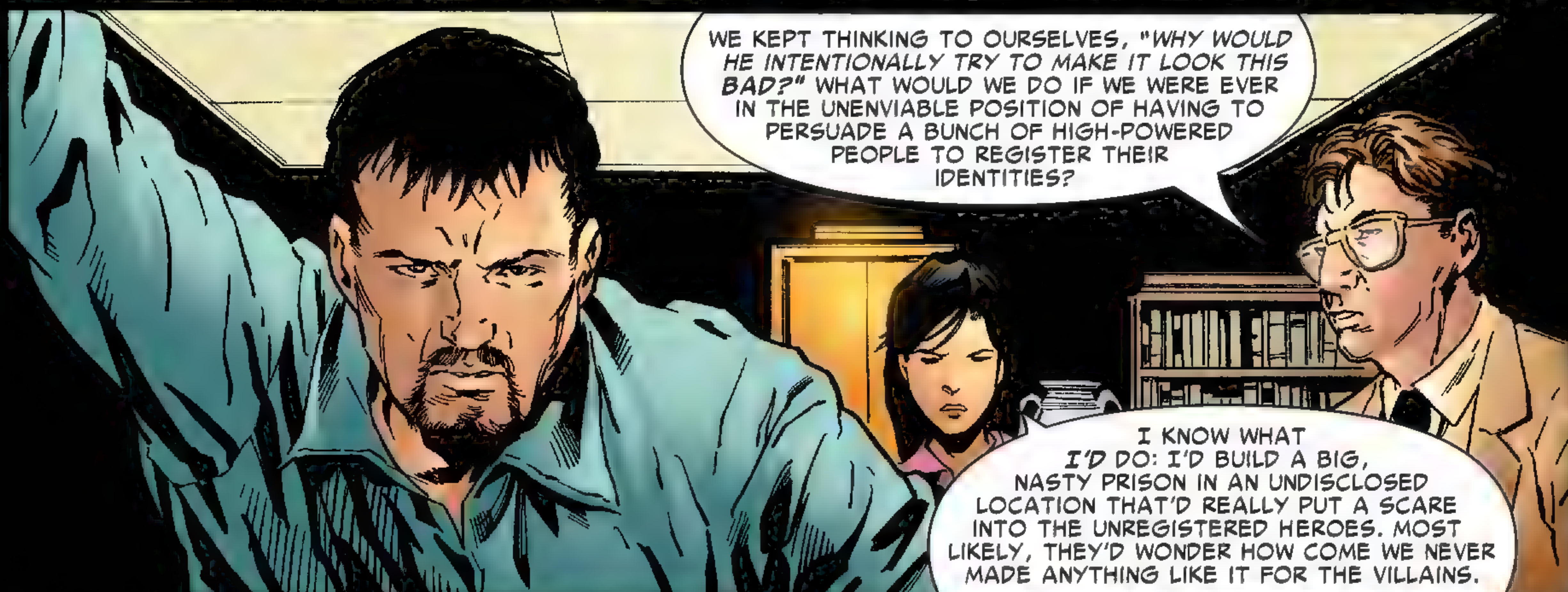


THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS, BEN. YOU'RE GRASPING AT STRAWS--

NOT TRUE, SIR. A COUPLE OF ROUTINE BACKGROUND CHECKS REVEALED YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CERTAIN EVENTS--SUCH AS OSBORN'S ATTACK ON THE ATLANTIAN DELEGATION--WAS USED TO MANIPULATE THE STOCK MARKET TO THE TUNE OF OVER NINETY MILLION DOLLARS.

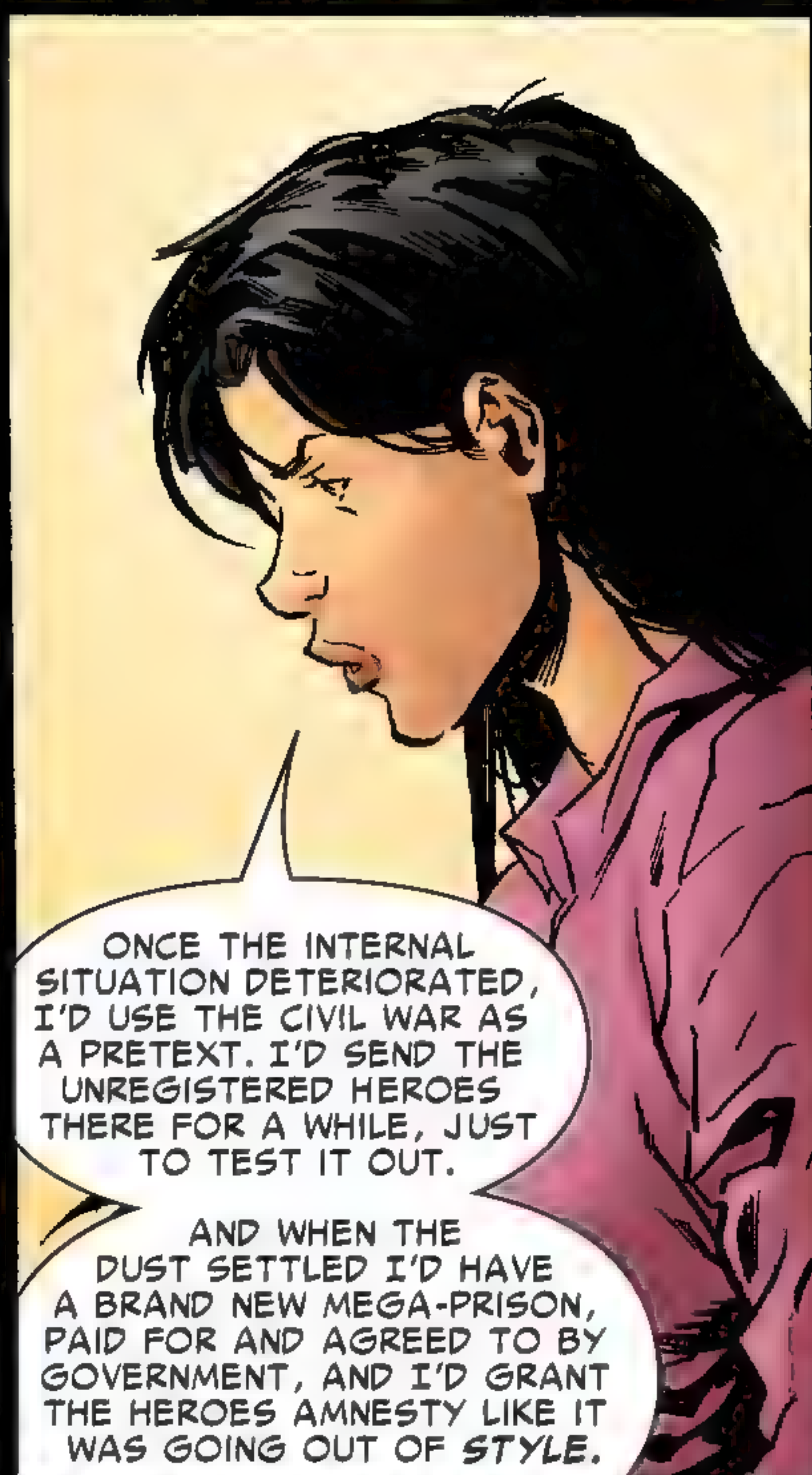


BUT NOW HERE'S WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING: FURTHER INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE MONEY WAS REROUTED THROUGH A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT AND PLACED INTO A NEW CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION PROVIDING PENSIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE--AND NOW, REGISTERED HEROES AND THEIR FAMILIES.



WE KEPT THINKING TO OURSELVES, "WHY WOULD HE INTENTIONALLY TRY TO MAKE IT LOOK THIS BAD?" WHAT WOULD WE DO IF WE WERE EVER IN THE UNENVIABLE POSITION OF HAVING TO PERSUADE A BUNCH OF HIGH-POWERED PEOPLE TO REGISTER THEIR IDENTITIES?

I KNOW WHAT I'D DO: I'D BUILD A BIG, NASTY PRISON IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION THAT'D REALLY PUT A SCARE INTO THE UNREGISTERED HEROES. MOST LIKELY, THEY'D WONDER HOW COME WE NEVER MADE ANYTHING LIKE IT FOR THE VILLAINS.



ONCE THE INTERNAL SITUATION DETERIORATED, I'D USE THE CIVIL WAR AS A PRETEXT. I'D SEND THE UNREGISTERED HEROES THERE FOR A WHILE, JUST TO TEST IT OUT.

AND WHEN THE DUST SETTLED I'D HAVE A BRAND NEW MEGA-PRISON, PAID FOR AND AGREED TO BY GOVERNMENT, AND I'D GRANT THE HEROES AMNESTY LIKE IT WAS GOING OUT OF STYLE.



IT'S A VERY EXOTIC STORY, BUT IT DOESN'T EXACTLY MAKE SENSE.

WE THOUGHT THAT TOO, SIR. WHY WOULD ANYONE BE CRAZY ENOUGH TO COERCE THE GREEN GOBLIN INTO ATTACKING A FOREIGN DELEGATION ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION? WHY PUSH US TO THE BRINK OF YET ANOTHER WAR?



UNLESS YOU WERE SO SMART THAT YOU'D ALREADY WEIGHED THE PROS AND CONS, AND CALCULATED WHAT THE OUTCOME WAS GOING TO BE?



"THE MOST OBVIOUS QUESTION WAS WHY A MAN WITH OSBORN'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH WOULD MAKE HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE AN ORDINARY OLD PISTOL WITH A WARPED BARREL--HARDLY AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST AN ATLANTEAN.

"AND HOW DID POLICE OFFICERS MANAGE TO SUBDUE HIM SO QUICKLY... UNLESS HE WAS ALREADY UNDER CONTROL?"

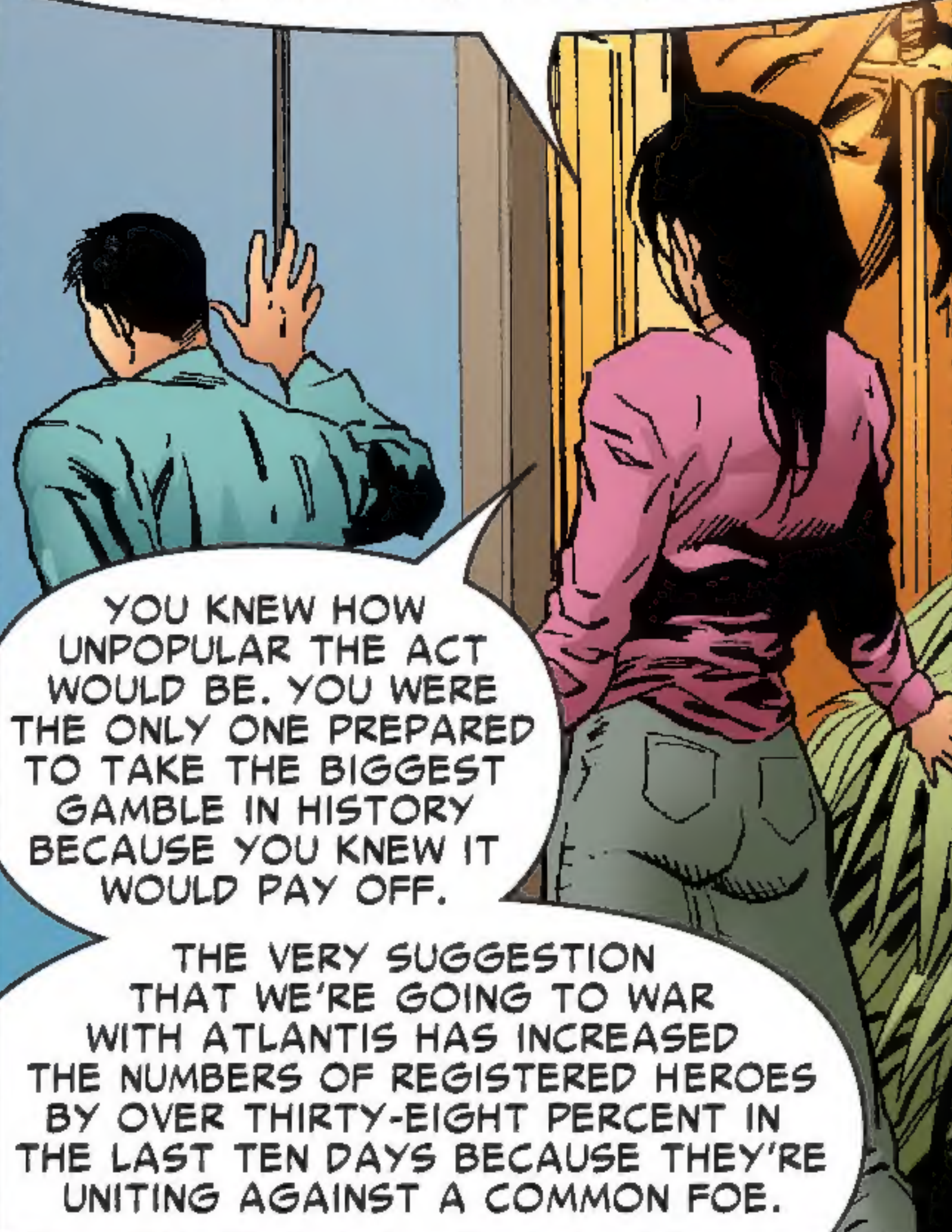
"AFTER THE ATTACK, THE NANITES IN OSBORN'S BLOODSTREAM CONTROLLED HIM COMPLETELY. HE WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HE HAD BEEN MADE TO DO.



"WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT MISTER OSBORN WAS LATER RELEASED BACK INTO YOUR CUSTODY, AND HAS BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE THUNDERBOLTS PROGRAM IN COLORADO."

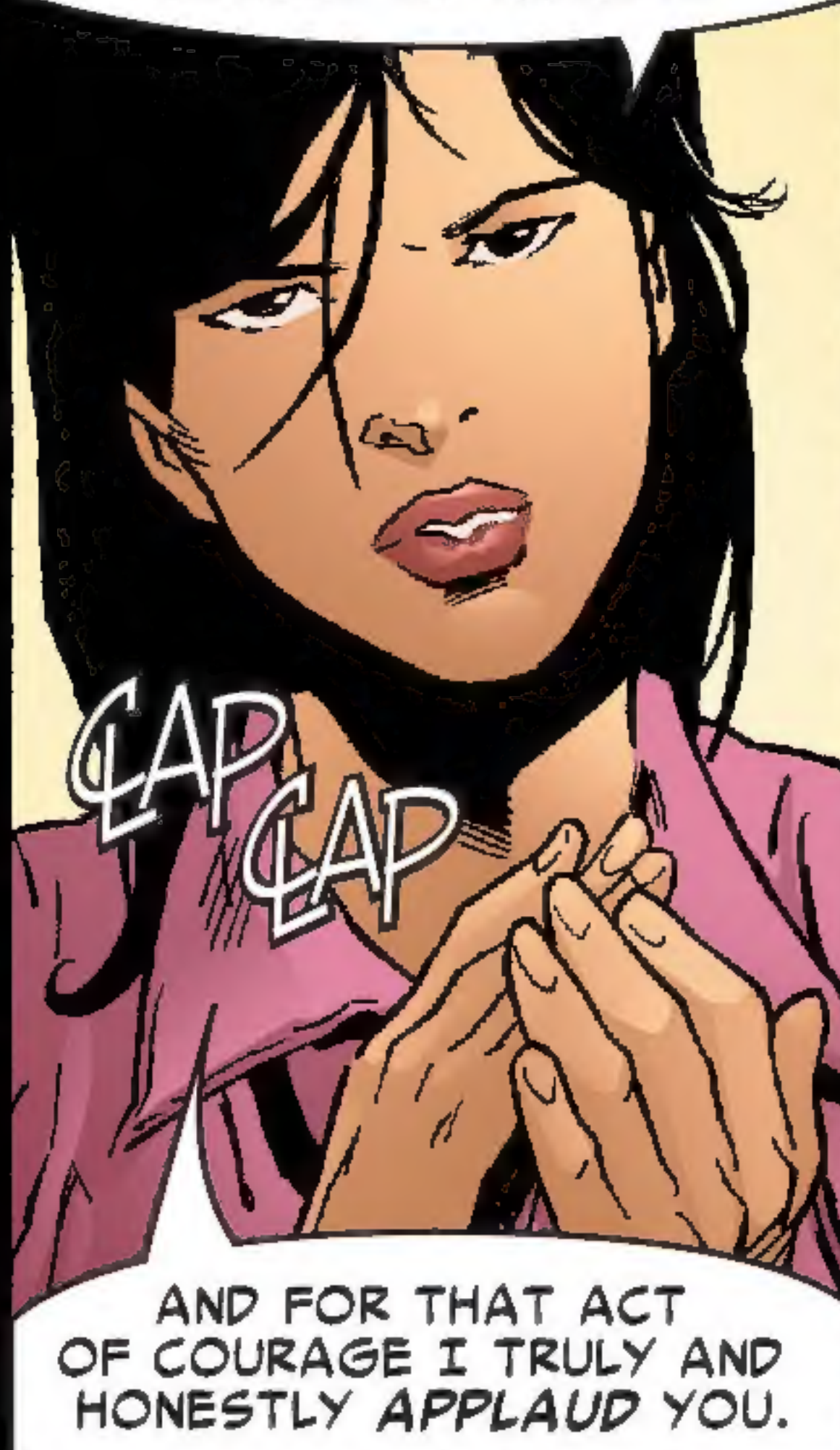
YOU CONTROLLED THE ENTIRE EVENT, MISTER STARK. YOU WEIGHED THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH ATLANTIS AGAINST THE INEVITABILITY OF COSTUMED INDIVIDUALS TEARING THIS COUNTRY APART, AND YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ALL ALONG. YOU SACRIFICED YOUR STATUS AS A FRIEND, COLLEAGUE AND HERO FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THIS COUNTRY. YOU ALONE UNDERSTOOD THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.



YOU KNEW HOW UNPOPULAR THE ACT WOULD BE. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE PREPARED TO TAKE THE BIGGEST GAMBLE IN HISTORY BECAUSE YOU KNEW IT WOULD PAY OFF.

THE VERY SUGGESTION THAT WE'RE GOING TO WAR WITH ATLANTIS HAS INCREASED THE NUMBERS OF REGISTERED HEROES BY OVER THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT IN THE LAST TEN DAYS BECAUSE THEY'RE UNITING AGAINST A COMMON FOE.



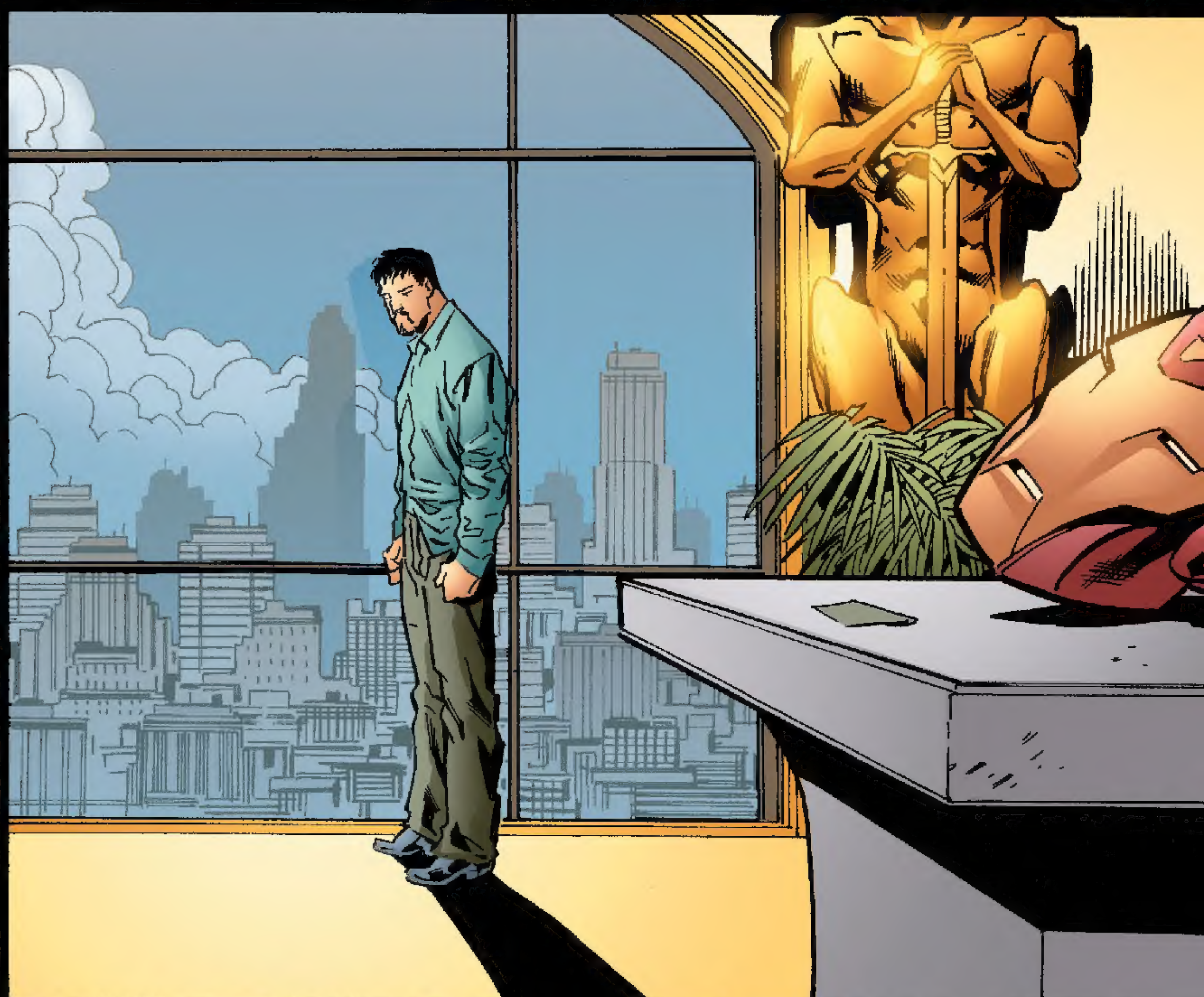
AND FOR THAT ACT OF COURAGE I TRULY AND HONESTLY APPLAUD YOU.

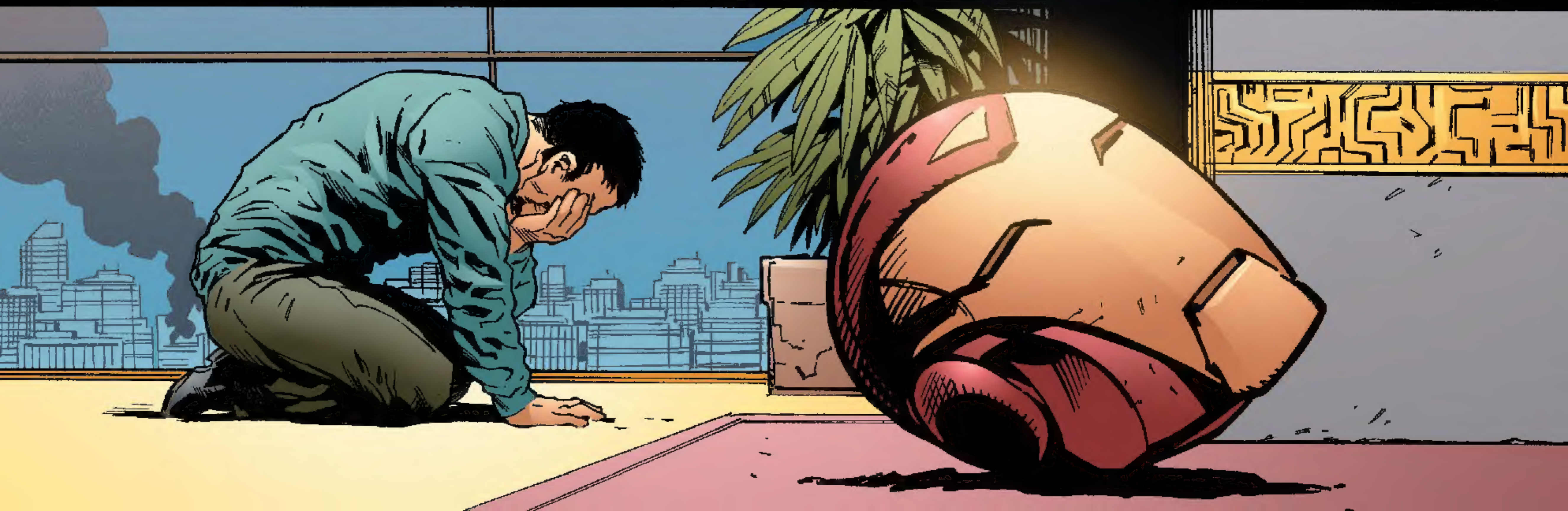
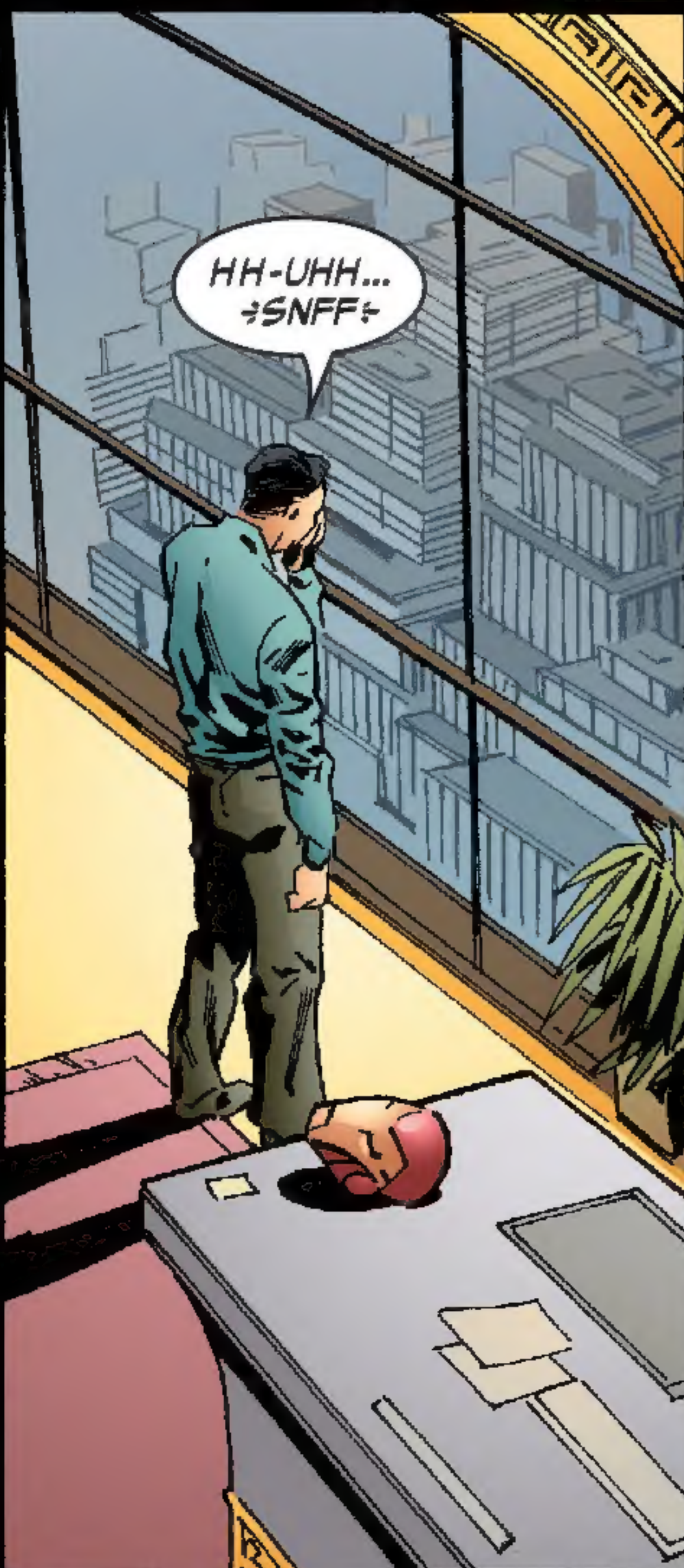


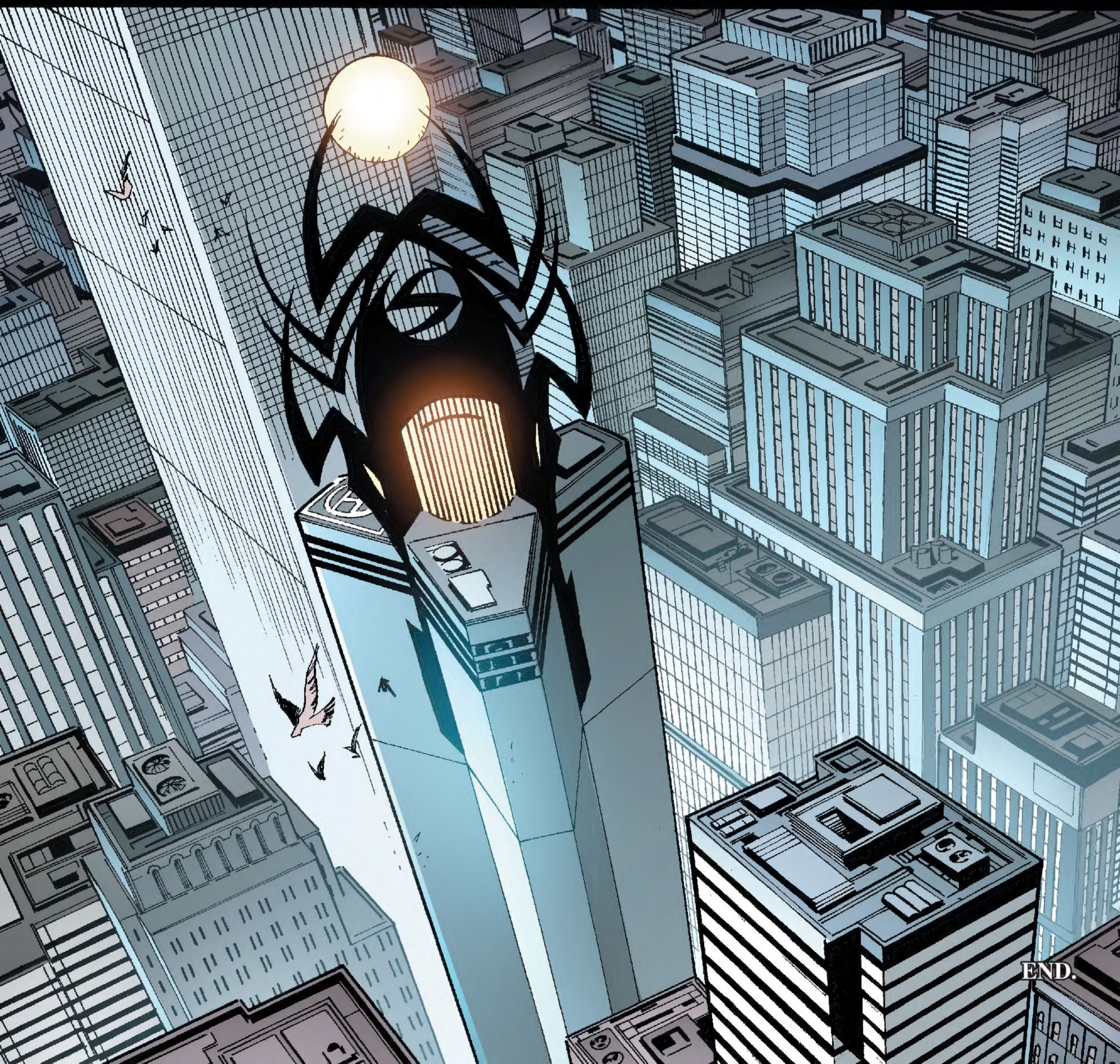
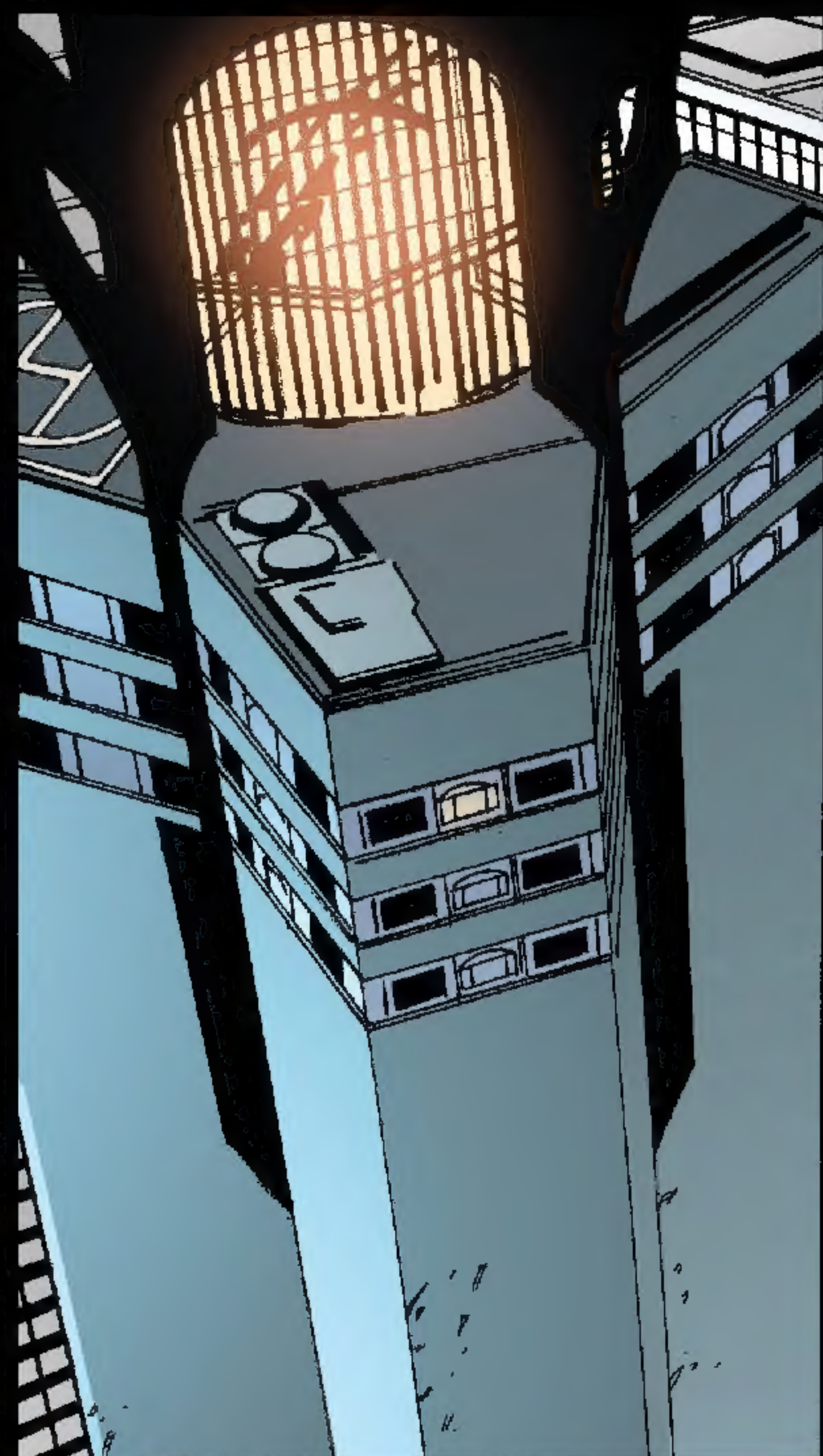
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY OFFICE.

I TOLD YOU, BEN: THE HERO'S TRUE SACRIFICE IS THAT HE CAN NEVER TELL.

THAT'S TEN BUCKS YOU OWE ME.







END.